
Association Rules 2009/2010

1 Title

The Association shall be called the **Didcot and District Table Tennis Association** (D.D.T.T.A.).

2 Affiliations

D.D.T.T.A. shall be affiliated to the English Table Tennis Association Limited (E.T.T.A.) and abide by the Rules and Regulations of E.T.T.A., decisions of General Meetings and of the National Council and E.T.T.A. Approved Laws of Table Tennis. D.D.T.T.A. shall be affiliated to Oxfordshire Table Tennis Association (O.T.T.A.). Any league run by D.D.T.T.A. shall be known as the Didcot & District Table Tennis League.

3 Objects

The objects of the Association shall be:

- (a) To encourage and raise the standards of table tennis in Didcot and 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 D.D.T.T.A., 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 honorary officers, elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, and the Secretary of each affiliated club. The officers of the EC shall be the President of the League, League representative member to the E.T.T.A., Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Competitions 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 and registered players. 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 D.D.T.T.A. shall be held not later than June 30 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 D.D.T.T.A. 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)

ECMs 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 his club on the EC is only allowed one vote. Any club which is not represented by its secretary or nominated representative at three consecutive ECM shall forfeit its right to vote on ECM motions. The club's vote shall be reinstated once it has been represented at two consecutive meetings.

No member of a Club may vote on any matter directly concerning that Club when it is involved in an appeal.

Any other D.D.T.T.A. member may attend an ECM as an observer, and may be allowed to join discussion at the chairman'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, D.D.T.T.A.-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 captain and probable players should normally 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 the name 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. Fees payable to D.D.T.T.A. shall be set at the PSM. These are clubs' affiliation fees and guarantee payments, and players' registration fees.

5.4.5 The PSM will determine the start and end dates of the season and allocate weeks for non-League competitions.

5.4.6 The PSM will decide the criteria to be used to award trophies under Rule 13.6.

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 D.D.T.T.A. Rules

D.D.T.T.A. 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 D.D.T.T.A. These shall be defined as registered members (see Rule 8) and officers of the EC (see Rule 4). Motions shall be decided on a majority of those voting with each eligible voter having one vote. The Chairman 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 stating a date and time by which responses are required. If the vote is tied or fewer than 50% of 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 D.D.T.T.A. shall end on 30 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 D.D.T.T.A. shall pay fees levied by E.T.T.A. and O.T.T.A.

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

6.5 The Association shall nominate a League Representative Member of E.T.T.A. Ltd, and indemnify him out of the assets of D.D.T.T.A. should his guarantee be called upon in the event of the winding up of the E.T.T.A.

7 Club Affiliations

D.D.T.T.A. shall be open to accept affiliation from any club in Didcot and district playing under the laws of the E.T.T.A., provided it shall accept D.D.T.T.A.'s regulations. Clubs wishing to affiliate shall send the following details to the General Secretary: the location of the club, where home ties are to be played (if different), and the name and contact details of the club chairman, secretary and treasurer. This information must be sent to the General Secretary at least one month before the PSM.

League Rules

8 Registration of Players

8.1 A Club with more than one League team must define its teams '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 shall be registered with the Fixture Secretary (in writing, or by telephone) before they participate in a tie. Players' details in writing (name, Club, team and age category - see definitions after General Rules) and their registration fees must reach the Fixture Secretary within a week after that tie.

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 may only play outside the team for which he/she is then registered if he/she has not represented their prior registered teams he/she may only be registered again by applying to the EC for permission.

8.6 Any player having lost his place in the team for which registered and wishing to play for a lower team may himself, or through his club secretary, apply to the EC 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 before 31 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.

9 Composition of the Playing Teams

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:

a) Players from lower divisions;

b) 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.

c) No player shall play for both teams a tie.

Any player will be eligible to play not more than twice outside the team for which registered, whether this be for teams in the same division or in higher divisions.

9.2 Each team must have two eligible players present to commence play at 1930 hrs or some other time that is mutually agreed by the teams. Failure to comply may result in the offending team having to request a rearrangement (including a different time on the same evening) or postponement, either of which may be refused. Matches involving players who arrive after 2030hrs 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 only 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 rearranged 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 request that a tie be postponed beyond 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. Ties postponed for more than a month will incur a fine (Rule 14.1).

There is no obligation on any team to accept a request for a rearrangement or a postponement.

10.4 If a team is unable to fulfil a fixture within the season, it shall be termed a cancellation (see Rule 14.4).

10.5 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).

10.6 No team may postpone more than two ties in a season except with the express prior permission of the EC. Even then this does not give the requesting team any rights to have the request accepted. Any team exceeding the limit shall be dealt with under rule 14.4. There is no limit to the number of rearrangements allowed.

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 shall be kept by the home team for each fixture.

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(s) used;
- the tie result, the number of singles matches won by each player, and the result of the doubles;
- the names of the players used in the doubles;
- 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 stating whether the tie has been postponed or cancelled, and by whom. The offending team should also supply information that could influence the 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 endeavour to produce the best playing conditions. In all divisions, except the lowest, the table shall be lit by a minimum 'light equivalent' of 3x150 watt bulbs 9 feet above the floor.

13 League Championships

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

Division 1: 2 points for a win
 1 point for a draw
 0 points for a defeat;

All other Divisions:

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

13.2 Where teams are equal on points, league positions shall 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 from 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 who play in at least 50% of the team's league ties. Trophies may be awarded to additional players with EC approval but at the club's expense.

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 D.D.T.T.A. 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 14.1 to 14.6 except in exceptional circumstances.

14.1 Impose a fine of up to £5.00 for postponing a tie for more than one month.

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:

(a) Award the tie 10-0, or some other score, to either team, or declare the tie void;

(b) Impose a fine of up to £10 on either team;

(c) Deduct points from either team;

(d) 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 of £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 occasioned by the application of any D.D.T.T.A. rule, its secretary shall have the right to appeal to the EC 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 D.D.T.T.A. 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 as 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 members of the D.D.T.T.A. by the EC.

17.3 Players having represented D.D.T.T.A. are eligible to wear the D.D.T.T.A. 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 3 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 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 1 st January during the current administrative year (born on or before 1 Jan 1970)
JUNIOR	Under 18 on 31 st December during the current administrative year (born after 31 Dec 1991)
CADET	Under 15 on 31 st December during the current administrative year (born after 31 Dec 1994)

Current administrative year starts 29 June 2009

Affiliation/Registration fees 2009/10

E.T.T.A. Affiliation fees per team £18.36

O.T.T.A. Affiliation fee per team £5.00

D.D.T.T.A. Affiliation fee per club if a club has no teams: £5.00

D.D.T.T.A. Registration fee per player: Adult £5.00

D.D.T.T.A. Registration fee per player: Junior £2.00

D.D.T.T.A. Registration fee per player: Cadet £1.00

D.D.T.T.A. Guarantee payment: £5.00 for first team + £2.00 for additional teams.

SERVICE RULE

There have been no material changes to the Service Rule since 2003, but all players are reminded that:

Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the server's stationary free hand.

The server shall then project the ball near vertically upwards, without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16cm after leaving the palm of the free hand and then falls without touching anything before being struck. The server shall strike the ball as it is falling.

From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by the server or his doubles partner or by anything they wear or carry.

As soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm and hand shall be removed from the space between the ball and the net.

It is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire or the assistant umpire* can be satisfied that he complies with the requirements for a good service.

If either the umpire or the assistant umpire* is doubtful of the legality of a service he may, on the first occasion in a match, interrupt play and warn the server.

Any subsequent service of doubtful legality of that player or his doubles partner will result in a point to the receiver.

Whenever there is a clear failure to comply with the requirements for a correct service, no warning shall be given and the receiver shall score a point.

* This means that, if necessary, a player may request that an assistant umpire be appointed to observe his service from the opposite side of the table to the umpire.

These are extracts from the Laws of Table Tennis, the full version of which you can find under "Regulations" at www.ittf.com

I.T.T.F EQUIPMENT NEWS: GLUE BAN

The I.T.T.F no longer recognises any rubber adhesives (speed type or otherwise) which contain Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). This ban, implemented on the grounds of the short and long term danger to players' health, is effective for all players from 1st September, 2008. "No gluing up on the premises" is now incorporated into all tournament regulations and we recommend that it be applied in local clubs as well. A list of I.T.T.F approved adhesives is promised in due course.

BAN ON FRICTIONLESS RUBBER

The ITTF's ban on frictionless rubber came into effect on July 1st, 2008 and now extends to all local leagues, even if they originally took up the option of a one-year moratorium, which has now elapsed. The I.T.T.F list of banned rubbers appears below, prefaced by the name of the manufacturers. A full list of I.T.T.F approved racket coverings can be found at www.ittf.com (Equipment - Racket List 30)
Banned as from 2008/09:

999 – 889 (Globe, Juic etc); ANDRO – Clou, Krypto; DAWEI – 388B; DONIC – Alligator, Alligator Soft, Piranja FD; DOUBLE POWER – No.4080; DR NEUBAUER – Boomerang, Inferno, Monster, Roulette, Scalpel, Super Block, The Wall; FRIENDSHIP – RITC 755 Faster, RITC 799-1; GIANT DRAGON – 8228; HALLMARK – Friction Special, Super Special, Super Special Extra; IMPERIAL – Defender, Magic Swing; JOEREX – 5312, 6050; JOOLA – Antispin Long Pips, Fakir, Razor; METEOR – 575, 71-1, 71-2, 845, 8512, 9012; MILKY WAY – Pluto, Uranus; PROMA – Diabolic; SOCKO – STR-GEE; TIBHAR – Grass Devil; TONI HOLD – Virus II; TSP – Bamboo Curl P-1, Curl-Cactus, Curl-Combi; TT MASTER – Insider, R-Flex, Swing Back I, Swing Back Special; YAPING – 138

AUTHORISED BALLS

Table tennis balls for league matches must be on the current I.T.T.F approved ball list. This is changed from time to time, and you may check out www.ittf.com (Equipment) for the latest information. The balls specified below are approved by the I.T.T.F for 2009. They are all 40mm three star and may be either white or orange, except for those where approval is restricted to one colour, as indicated by the letters W or O.

729, Amsir Unique – W, Andro, Artengo, Ballistic, Bethel –W, Butterfly, Champion – W, Cornilleau, DHS, Donic, Double Fish, Dunlop Excel Sport, Gewo Ultra Super Selected – W, Giant Dragon, Go Sport, Imperial –W, Joola, Killerspin, Lion Premium – W, Nimatsu – O, Nittaku, Peace, Point-Blank, Rucanor Triple Circle – W, Schildkrot, Stag, Stiga, Sunflex – O, Tibhar, Top Life, TSP, Yasaka, Yashima.