



MPTTA Inc

Match Rules and Regulations (July 2014)

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1 The ITTF Laws of Table Tennis

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) is the governing body of the sport and its members are the affiliated table tennis associations in over 200 countries. Its main role is to control and develop the sport. Therefore all members must abide by its laws. Each 2-3 years a new set of laws is published and these laws can be downloaded from the ITTF website at:

http://www.ittf.com/ittf_handbook/ittf_hb.html

The ITTF Laws of Table Tennis form the basis of control for matches played within the MPTTA stadium or other recognised venues where MPTTA matches take place. These laws cover such things as the table, the net assembly, the ball, the racket, service, return, order of play, a let, a point, a game, a match, order of serving, receiving and ends, and the expedite system.

- 1.1 A copy of the current ITTF Laws of Table Tennis will be kept at the stadium as a reference for the Duty Officer or members, to assist in dispute settlement.
- 1.2 The rules in this document shall be the main criteria for settling disputes arising during play. They are formulated for our local conditions and complement the ITTF laws.
- 1.3 In relation to the playing of competition matches of table tennis within the Junior Pennant, the Co-ordinator may modify such regulations as he or she deems necessary for the benefit of members.

2.0 Local Rules & Regulations Governing Control of Competitions, Tournaments, Registration, Eligibility, etc.

2.1 Competitions

- 2.1.1 Fixtures: The Committee of Management or any Pennant Sub-Committee formed for the purpose shall:
 - Decide the format and length of all pennant fixtures and the finals series of each season.
 - Decide the number and type of Local Tournaments (or championships) for the year.
 - Decide the number and type of Open Tournaments for the year.
 - Decide the number and type of other Tournaments or matches e.g. Inter-Association Challenges.
 - Provide an Annual Calendar, placing each of the above events on fixed or tentative dates.
 - Determine the venue(s), nights and times of the Senior and Junior Pennant competitions.
- 2.1.2 The Association shall conduct and manage Senior Pennant competitions, Junior Pennant / Round Robin competitions for the benefit of members throughout each calendar year.
- 2.1.3 The Senior and Junior Pennant / Round Robin competitions shall normally be organised into three or four consecutive seasons within each calendar year.
- 2.1.4 The Senior Pennant competition is open to all members irrespective of age, but the Junior Pennant / Round Robin competition is restricted to those members under the age of 18 years at the end of the preceding calendar year.

2.2 Venue

- 2.2.1 All local competitions shall be played at the MPTTA stadium.
- 2.2.2 An exception to the above may be if a new club applies for entry, wishing to use its own home ground for home matches. Approval for this arrangement may be granted by the Committee of Management if it deems that arrangement to be in the best interests of the Association and its members.

3.0 MPTTA Membership. There are 3 types of memberships:

3.1 Full Memberships.

Full memberships are for all approved players who wish to play pennant. Full members must be financial members of MPTTA Inc., and pay the current Table Tennis Victoria Incorporated (TTV Inc) affiliation and insurance fee. **Players claiming to be covered by other Associations must produce evidence of such coverage or pay the required amount.** Membership of the MPTTA Inc. shall be deemed to be an acceptance of the Match Rules & Regulations.

3.2 Recreational Memberships.

Recreational memberships are for all approved Adults and Juniors who wish to play socially. Recreational members must be financial members of MPTTA Inc. and pay the current T.T.V. affiliation and insurance fee. Membership of the MPTTA Inc. shall be deemed to be an acceptance of the Match Rules & Regulations.

3.3 Life membership and Honorary Membership.

Life members and Honorary Members of the MPTTA are to pay the actual cost of TTV registration & insurance, either Recreational or Full.

3.4 Further rules regarding membership:

- 3.4.1 A new player, who is not currently a member of MPTTA but wishes to play on arrival, must complete all membership and registration forms before commencing play. Full payment for membership and TTV registration must then be made before that player's second day or evening of play.
- 3.4.2 A player who is a member of another affiliated association must also pay the appropriate MPTTA membership fee before their second evening or day of play.
- 3.4.3 The Committee of Management reserves the right to refuse any player's membership or entry into any pennant competition, and if the Committee exercises this right, the Secretary of the Association shall notify the player affected, in writing, of the said decision.
- 3.4.4 Recreational Members are entitled to rights and privileges as set down by the Committee of Management.
- 3.4.5 Life/Honorary Members are exempt from paying practice and pennant playing fees.

4 Payment of Pennant Fees

- 4.1 Pennant fees (including the prescribed annual registration fee of the MPTTA Inc. and the minimum prescribed annual registration fee of TTV Inc) shall be paid with entry forms.
- 4.2 Any current registered MPTTA member who has paid their annual TTV Inc. fees can apply to the Pennant Committee for delayed payment of pennant fees where they can demonstrate hardship. Where hardship has been demonstrated, payment will be extended to no later than the fourth round of the pennant competition for which fees are being sought.
- 4.3 If fees remain outstanding by the completion of the relevant round prescribed in clause 4.2 then the Pennant Secretary may exercise his or her discretion and not publish the offending team's match results until all outstanding fees are received by the Association.

5 Family Group Concession fees

- 5.1 Reduced fees are available for family groups who are MPTTA members. Family concession fees will be set by the Committee of Management prior to the end of each calendar year for the following year. To qualify for family concession fees, the total amount payable (including the annual MPTTA and TTV registration fees) must have been paid by the first night of the pennant competition in which any one of the family members has registered.
- 5.2 Family concessions involve a discount to be applied to the pennant fees of dependent children.
- 5.3 Once children reach adult status they are required to pay the full adult pennant fees.

6 Practice Fees

- 6.1 Practice fees are normally payable on the weekday or weekend of practice. The current fee is set annually by the Committee of Management and advised within the centre along with other fees.
- 6.2 Active registered pennant playing members are not required to pay practice fees on weekday evenings. At all other times the current MPTTA member practice fee is required to be paid.
- 6.3 Active registered Recreational MPTTA members are required to pay practice fees on the day / evening of play at the current MPTTA member rate which is set annually.
- 6.4 Casual table hire and casual group bookings are dependent on court availability. Casual practice fees are set annually for all Non-Members and are required to be paid on the day of practice.

7 Pennant Players

- 7.1 Pennant play is available to all approved MPTTA full members. Pennant fees and the rights of pennant players will be set by the Committee of Management prior to the end of each calendar year for the following year. To qualify as a pennant player, the total amount payable (including the annual MPTTA and TTV registration fees) must have been paid by the first night of the first Pennant competition of the year in which the player has entered.
- 7.2 MPTTA full members who are active pennant players are not required to pay practice fees on weekday evenings. However during training and practice sessions for juniors, registered junior MPTTA members shall have priority over tables and adult members undertaking practice on such times must give way when such tables are required by junior members. No adult practice is available on Junior Pennant nights unless arranged through Juniors Co-Ordinator.

8 Requirements for Fill-in Players (Non-Final Matches) (See Rule 15 below for Finals Matches)

- 8.1 No player, registered in a team, is permitted to play in a grade lower than that which the player is currently playing in.

- 8.2 No player shall play in more than one pennant match in any one night/day of the week unless they meet one of the exceptions listed below.
- 8.3 An exception to 8.2 is that if a player's team has a bye or has limited play due to no-show of opponents, then that player may play, if needed, in their current grade as a fill-in player (with rule 8.6 applied) or a higher grade. (All results from this are recorded as a non-team player. ie: fill-in).
- 8.4 A further exception to 8.2 is where the Association decides to run different styles of competition concurrently, e.g. a handicap pennant with normal graded pennant.
- 8.5 A fill-in player in a graded event should be of the same handicap or lower than the player being replaced. But if the fill-in player has a higher handicap, then they start all games on a negative score which is double the difference between their handicap and the handicap of the player being replaced (Doubles and Singles). A fill-in player must not have a handicap more than 5 points higher than the player being replaced.
- 8.6 In handicap divisions the handicap of the fill-in player must not exceed the highest handicapped player in the given division.

9 **Registration of Individuals and Teams**

- 9.1 Prior to the commencement of any pennant competition season, entry forms will be issued by the Association. Where a team entry for registration in this season is allowed it shall consist of a minimum of 2 players and a maximum of 3 players (for two person competitions) and a minimum of 3 players and a maximum of 5 players (for three person competitions). The registration of a team shall be supplied on the prescribed Entry Form with all relevant details completed in full and forwarded to the Secretary or Pennant Secretary of the Association within the prescribed time. The Pennant Committee will endeavour to ensure that all teams are placed in an appropriate grade.
- 9.2 In seasons where individual entries are sought rather than team entries, the Pennant Committee will endeavour to ensure that all individual entries are placed in an appropriate team and grade.
- 9.3 Individual entries shall normally be sought in most seasons. However, where the number of entries exceeds places available then the Pennant Committee will decide who plays on the basis of either the order of receipt of entries, or of the ability to fill places available, or by holding a ballot of individual entries and then advising those players that fail to gain entry into the competition.
- 9.4 Prior to the commencement of a pennant competition season in the Junior Pennant, the registration of a player shall be supplied on the prescribed Entry Form with all relevant details completed in full and forwarded to the Co-ordinator of the Junior Pennant within the prescribed time. The Co-ordinator shall allocate players to teams in the Junior Pennant, which shall usually consist of 2 – 3 players.
- 9.5 In the event of a team being unable to field a full team for a particular match, the players present shall take part in the match, and the absentee player or players shall forfeit their rubbers to the opposing side unless acceptable fill in players are able to be fielded. (See 11 below for details about acceptability of fill in players).
- 9.6 At the conclusion of a pennant season, a player ceases to be a member of any team until registered in accordance with procedures above for the following pennant season.
- 9.7 To reflect our coverage of the greater peninsula region, township names are the preferred way of naming teams. All team names need to be selected or approved by the Pennant Committee.

10 Additional or Substitute Players

- 10.1 During the season, additional or substitute players may be registered with the Pennant Secretary prior to a match by completing the prescribed Substitute Player Form and having the player graded by a member of the Pennant Committee or persons delegated by it; or alternatively, by endorsing the name, address and relevant previous playing experience of the player on the prescribed Substitute Player Form and attaching it to the scoresheet for the Pennant Secretary. However, in the case of the latter, the registration is subject to the approval of the Pennant Committee. Failure to comply will result in the loss of the said player's rubbers.
- 10.2 The registration of an additional or substitute player in a team may be refused by the Pennant Committee if the subsequent addition to the team in question, would result in the standard of that team being significantly higher than that of the standard team in that grade. The additional or substitute player must be no more than five handicap points higher (i.e. better) than the player being replaced. Accordingly, a refusal by the Pennant Committee for breach of the above rule will result in the loss of all or some of the said player's rubbers as decided by the Pennant Committee.
- 10.3 If an opposing team objects to the playing of an alternative or substitute player on a fixture pennant night (the said player not yet approved by the Pennant Committee), the Team Captain of the opposing team shall endorse the score sheet with the word "Protest" marked clearly, or alternatively, notify the Pennant Secretary within 3 days following the match requesting that the relevant scoresheet be so endorsed, and then the Team Captain shall lodge a formal protest in accordance with these regulations.
- 10.4 Notwithstanding the above clauses, in the Junior Pennant, additional or substitute players may be registered during the season with the Co-ordinator of the Junior Pennant prior to a match by completing the prescribed Entry Form and having the player graded by the Co-ordinator of the Junior Pennant.
- 10.5 A substitute player shall not be liable for the payment of a pennant fee in circumstances where the team, in which he or she is playing, has fully paid their pennant fees. In circumstances where the team, or a player thereof, has not fully paid their pennant fees, such substitute player shall pay outstanding pennant fees by the end of their second competition night unless permission is sought and granted by the Pennant Committee.
- 10.6 When a substitute player has played three matches in the minor rounds for any one team, that player is deemed tied to that team and cannot play with any other team during that season.
- 10.7 A walkover, but not a bye, shall count as a match. However, for a walkover to count as part of eligibility for finals, the players' names must appear on the score sheet.

11 Dates of Pennant Fixtures

- 11.1 The dates of pennant fixtures shall be determined by the Committee of Management of the Association. Should teams competing in pennant fixtures mutually arrange for a match to be played on a date other than the date of the fixture, the prior approval of either the Duty Manager, or the Pennant Secretary must be sought at least 24 hours prior to the original allocated date of the fixture.

12 Order of Team Rankings

- 12.1 The order of team rankings will be decided at the completion of the pennant fixture rounds by the following method:
- Total match points, rubbers won, percentage of sets (games) won, and if necessary, by the percentage of points won, in that order.

13 Finals Matches in Pennant Competitions

- 13.1 Where finals are conducted over **one week** the first-ranked and second-ranked teams will play off for gold and silver with the winner receiving gold and runner-up, silver. The third-ranked and fourth-ranked teams will play off for bronze with the winner receiving bronze.
- 13.2 Where finals are conducted over **two weeks** between the four leading teams, then the finals shall comprise, Elimination Finals and a Grand Final played over two consecutive weeks. The first week shall consist of the following Elimination Finals:
- (i) the first ranked team versus the fourth ranked team
 - (ii) the second ranked team versus the third ranked team.
- The winners progress to the Grand Final and the losers are eliminated from the finals. The Second week of finals shall consist of the Grand Final, with the winner declared the Premiers and the loser declared the Runners-Up.
- 13.3 Where finals are conducted over **three weeks** between the four leading teams, then the finals shall comprise two semi-finals, a preliminary final and a grand final played over three consecutive weeks. The first week of finals shall consist of the Qualifying Semi-Final between the first-ranked and second ranked teams (with the winner progressing directly to the Grand Final and the loser progressing to the Preliminary Final) and the Elimination Semi-Final between the third-ranked and fourth-ranked teams (with the winner progressing to the Preliminary Final and the loser being eliminated from the finals). The second week of finals shall consist of the Preliminary Final, with the winner progressing to the Grand Final and the loser being eliminated from the finals. The third week of finals shall consist of the Grand Final, with the winner declared the Premiers and the loser declared the Runners-Up.
- 13.4 Where finals are conducted over **one week**, gold/silver/bronze trophies or medallions will be provided. Where finals are conducted over two or three weeks, trophies or medallions will be provided for the winners and runner-up at the end of each season. If fill-in trophies or medallions are requested by player/s please inform Pennant Secretary.
- 13.5 The Pennant Committee shall have the power to vary the requirements of this Regulation by providing written notice to the affected teams and or players.

14 Conduct of Finals Matches

- 14.1 All finals matches shall be played at the Dunns Road, Mornington venue of the Association, unless otherwise directed by the Committee of Management.
- 14.2 Finals matches shall be played on the night that the “home” team usually plays its matches unless otherwise directed by the Committee of Management.
- 14.3 The team ranked higher, either at the end of the pennant season or within a finals series, shall have the choice of being “Home or Away team”. ie: in a 2 person team A,B “home team” or X,Y “away team” and in a 3 person team A,B,C “home team” or X,Y,Z “away team”.
- 14.4 The result of all finals matches is decided by the first team which wins sufficient rubbers to determine the outcome of the match - all remaining rubbers shall not be played by the teams.

15 Eligibility to Play In Finals Matches

- 15.1 A replacement player must be approved by the Pennant Committee to be eligible to play in any pennant finals matches.
- 15.2 Where a fill-in is required for a finals match, the player must come from within the same grade and have a winning percentage equal to or lower than the player they are replacing. If there is no player available satisfying these criteria then the Pennant Committee may select or approve a replacement player. At least one player in a finals team must be a permanent member of that team (ie: one fill-in player is allowed in a 2 person team, while 2 fill-in players are allowed in a 3 person team. If there is not one regular team member available to play in their finals match, this will constitute a walkover.
- 15.3 In exceptional circumstances the Pennant Committee may allow a player to become eligible after having played less than three matches for the team concerned. Notice in writing, detailing circumstances, must be given to the Pennant Committee at least seven days prior to the match for which approval is sought.

THE FOLLOWING MISCELLANEOUS RULES ARE IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

16 Advice to Players. A player may receive advice (including coaching) only during the intervals between games. Advice can never be given at the change of ends during the final game of a rubber. Also the person giving advice must be outside the court area at all times.

17 Allocation of Points

- 17.1 The result of a match is usually determined by the number of rubbers won and lost. The winning team shall receive 4 points and in the case of a draw resulting or cancellation due to loss of power etc., each team shall receive 2 match points.
- 17.2 Byes shall be deemed a win and each team receiving a bye will be automatically credited with 4 points, all rubbers and no games (a match scoresheet need not be submitted). Rubbers will not be allocated to individual players.

18 Allocation of Team Lettering

On pennant match score sheets the “home” team (or first-mentioned team in the fixture) is denoted by the letters A, B (and C) and the “away” team (or second-mentioned team) is denoted by the letters X, Y (and Z).

19 Annual Open Championships

- 19.1 The Association shall present annual Open Championships (Junior, Senior and Veterans), as it sees fit and on dates determined by the Committee of Management or by its nominated Sub-Committee.
- 19.2 Open Championships are open to all registered members of a Table Tennis Association (or similar body) within or outside Australia, provided the player has completed the prescribed Entry Form and submitted it with full payment within the prescribed time.
- 19.3 The Open Championships shall be controlled by a Referee, appointed from the Victoria Table Tennis Umpires League.

20 Awards

- 20.1 The leading player shall be the player who wins the most singles rubbers in the pennant fixture rounds, excluding finals.
- 20.2 If two or more players have won an equal number of rubbers, the leading player award shall be shared between such players.
- 20.3 The Committee of Management reserves the right to provide other awards as it deems appropriate.

21 Behaviour

- 21.1 Players shall refrain from behaviour that may unfairly affect an opponent, may offend spectators or may bring the game into disrepute.
- 21.2 Where an umpire considers the conduct of a player is not of an acceptable standard, the umpire shall warn the player that any repetition is liable to incur a penalty point. If a player who has been warned commits a second offence in the same individual match or team match, the umpire shall award one point to the offender's opponent, and for a further offence two points. If a further offence occurs the umpire shall suspend play and report immediately to the Duty Manager.
- 21.3 The type of behaviour for which such penalties may be imposed includes, amongst other things, deliberate damage to equipment such as breaking the ball or hitting the table with a bat, abusive language, unfair delaying tactics such as deliberately hitting the ball out of the playing area, and disrespect of match officials.
- 21.4 A Duty Manager may also report a player where the Duty Manager considers the conduct of the member to be of an unacceptable standard. Any member found guilty as charged will incur a penalty imposed by the Committee of Management pursuant to the rules in its Constitution.

22 Choice of Service or End

- 22.1 The right to choose the initial order of serving, receiving and ends shall be decided by lot and the winner may choose to serve or to receive first, or to start at a particular end. When a player has made the initial choice, the opponent shall have the other choice.
- 22.2 In each game of a doubles rubber, the pair having the right to serve first shall choose which of them will do so. Also in the first game of a rubber, the receiving pair shall decide which of them shall receive first. In subsequent games of a rubber, the first server having been chosen, the first receiver shall be the player who served to him or her in the preceding game.

23 Closed Championships

- 23.1 Any player wishing to compete in the MPTTA Inc. closed championships must fulfil the following requirements:
 - a) The player must be MPTTA and TTV registered.
 - b) The player must have registered in a MPTTA team prior to the event in that year and have played at least three matches as a singles player.
 - c) Juniors currently playing in MPTTA junior pennant and satisfying a) and b) above may enter senior closed events in grades acceptable to the Organising Committee of Management.
- 23.2 The Committee of Management reserves the right to restrict or refuse entries for any event, or cancel events where there are insufficient entries.

- 23.3 Any player not ready to play when requested by the Referee (or acting Referee) shall be disqualified from that event.
- 23.4 No refunds shall be allowed to players withdrawing during or prior to the tournament.
- 23.5 Any player who enters an event in which they are not eligible shall be disqualified and may forfeit their entry fee.
- 23.6 The entry form of any player which is incomplete or inaccurate shall render that player liable to disqualification at any time, either before, during, or after, an event.
- 23.7 Notwithstanding the above clauses, all tournament matches shall be governed by “The ITTF Laws of Table Tennis and Regulations for International Competitions”.
- 23.8 The Committee of Management shall have the power to vary the requirements of this Regulation by providing written notice to the players affected by the said variation.

24 Clothing

- 24.1 Association shirts / t-shirts or team shirts must be worn at all events when representing the M.P.T.T.A. Inc.
- 24.2 Association shirts / t-shirts are the preferred choice of tops to be worn. However, other short-sleeved, sleeveless shirts and t-shirts are permissible but must be predominantly of a colour other than that of the ball in use. This colour rule also applies to skirts / shorts and pants.
- 24.3 No singlets or tank-tops are to be worn.
- 24.4 The colour of all clothing worn must be clearly different from that of the ball in use.
- 24.5 Appropriate footwear shall comprise athletic, soft-soled shoes that are non-marking.
- 24.6 An exception to rule 24.5 is for players who have special needs.
- 24.7 Clothing shall not carry designs or lettering which might cause offence.
- 24.8 The penalty for infringing clothing regulations may include the loss of rubbers in which the offending player participated, or any other penalty set down by the Committee of Management from time to time.

25 Conduct of Matches – including the expedite system

- 25.1 All pennant rubbers shall consist of the best of 3, 5 or 7 games. This may be varied by the Committee of Management in handicap or other competitions. Details of such changes should normally be advised on the entry form.
- 25.2 Players are entitled to practise on the match table for up to 2 minutes immediately before the start of a rubber.
- 25.3 Play shall be continuous throughout a rubber except for short breaks as allowed by the ITTF laws. A player may claim one time out period of up to 1 minute during an individual match.

25.5 Expedite System.

- 25.5.1 Except as provided in 25.5.2, the expedite system shall come into operation after 10 minutes' play in a game or at any time when requested by both players or pairs.
- 25.5.2 The expedite system shall not be introduced in a game if at least 18 points have been scored.
- 25.5.3 If the ball is in play when the time limit is reached and the expedite system is due to come into operation, play shall be interrupted by the umpire and shall resume with service by the player who served in the rally that was interrupted; If the ball is not in play when the expedite system comes into operation, play shall resume with service by the player who received in the immediately preceding rally.
- 25.5.4 Thereafter, each player shall serve for 1 point in turn until the end of the game, and if the receiving player or pair makes 13 correct returns in a rally the receiver shall score a point.
- 25.5.5 Introduction of the expedite system shall not alter the order of serving and receiving in the match.
- 25.5.6 Once introduced, the expedite system shall remain in operation until the end of the match.
- 25.5.7 The expedite system shall not be used in finals.

26 General Rules of Conduct

- 26.1 Food and drink (excluding sealable water bottles) is not permitted in the court area under any circumstances.
- 26.2 The stadium is a "Smoke Free Zone" as are all other sections of the complex.
- 26.3 Alcohol is not to be consumed within the stadium except for events approved by the Committee of Management.

27 Glue

- 27.1 All players must comply with the current ITTF handbook rule.
- 27.2 Racket coverings may be attached to blades by means of pressure-sensitive adhesive sheets or International Table Tennis Federation approved adhesives; a player whose racket is found to contain a prohibited adhesive shall be disqualified from the competition.
- 27.3 The glueing of bats is forbidden at all times within the playing venue of the Association. Any player found guilty of violating this Regulation in any manner whatsoever is liable to the cancellation of all rubbers in which he or she participated in on the said night.

28 Handicap Competition

28.1 A higher handicap is given to a higher ranking player and is defined as a handicap which has a greater negative number value.

Example: The following handicaps are in order, lowest to highest: +2, 0, -5, -17.

28.2 In **singles matches** the player with the lower handicap always starts on 0 and their opponent's starting point is calculated as in the following example:

First example:

If the handicap of Player A is +2 and Player X has a handicap of -3, then Player A starts the game on 0.

As the difference in their handicaps is 5, then Player X starts on -5.

Second example:

If the player handicaps are: -5 for Player A and -3 for Player X then Player X starts on 0.

As the difference in handicaps is 2, then Player A starts on -2.

28.3 In **doubles matches** the following method is used. For each team we add the handicaps of the 2 players and then halve the difference between the two totals.

First example:

Team 'A & B' handicaps add up to -4

Team 'X & Y' handicaps add up to +2

The difference is 6. Halving the difference gives 3.

This means that team 'X & Y' starts on 0 and team 'A & B' starts on -3.

If the **difference** between the handicap totals of the 2 teams is an **odd number** then the difference is halved and then **rounded down**.

Second example:

Team 'A & B' handicaps add to +3

Team 'X & Y' handicaps add to -4

The difference between the two totals is 7. Half of this 3.5, which rounds down to 3.

This means that 'A & B' starts on 0 and Team 'X & Y' starts on -3.

28.4 It is the responsibility of the team captain to ensure that the handicap of each team member is recorded correctly on the score sheet. Where a player has been shown to have understated their handicap, then all games, including doubles games, played (or commenced) by that player shall be forfeited to the opposing team.

29 Interpretation

29.1 The interpretation of these Match Regulations shall devolve upon the Committee of Management of the Association, whose decision shall be final.

29.2 The Committee of Management may issue Guidelines explaining the interpretation of a regulation - such guidelines shall have the same force as a Regulation contained in these Match Regulations.

29.3 The Committee of Management has the power to add to, subtract from, or modify these rules and regulations as it sees fit.

30 Nomination of Players in Teams

30.1 Prior to the commencement of the first rubber of a match, each team captain shall allocate a letter to each of his or her players. The team captains shall then complete the scoresheet after such

nominations. If multiple scoresheets are used, the team captains shall then exchange the scoresheets.

- 30.2 Prior to the commencement of each doubles rubber, each team shall nominate the playing pair and enter their names on the scoresheet.

31 Non-financial Players

- 31.1 During a pennant season, a player or team, having failed to meet payment of monies outstanding, shall be considered ineligible to compete in finals matches, until such monies have been paid.
- 31.2 Any player or team, having failed to meet payment of monies outstanding, shall be considered ineligible to play in any future pennants or competitions played under the jurisdiction of the Association, until such monies have been paid.

32 Order of Play/Team Captain

- 32.1 Each team must select a Team Captain who shall be responsible for the team's compliance with the Match Regulations.
- 32.2 It is the responsibility of each Team Captain to collect and use the approved MPTTA official scoresheet.
- 32.3 The order of play in all matches shall follow the official scoresheet where the players on one side are denoted by the letters A, B (and in three person competitions, also the letter C) and the players on the other side are denoted by the letters X, Y (and in three person competitions, also the letter Z). In the doubles matches, one distinct pair shall not participate in more than one rubber.
- 32.4 The order of play on a night may be varied by mutual agreement of the Team Captains or by direction by the Committee of Management of the Association, or by the Duty Manager.

33 Playing Equipment

- 33.1 Unless otherwise arranged, the MPTTA shall supply a new currently approved ball for all competition or tournament matches.
- 33.2 White or orange 3 star balls (or equivalent ITTF approved ball) are to be used in all MPTTA competitions or tournaments. Any other ball may be used by mutual agreement of the players concerned.
- 33.3 All clothing must comply with current ITTF regulations
- 33.4 The Racket must comply with current ITTF regulations. At the start of a match, if requested, a player shall show his or her opponent and the umpire the racquet he or she is about to use and allow them to examine it. (Bat replacement during a match is only permissible if it is damaged accidentally.)
- 33.5 In the event of damage to any part of the table, net, floor, side barriers, side and rear netting then that person responsible for such damage must report the damage to the Duty Officer. In the event of no Duty Person being available, then the report must be made to any member of the Committee of Management by telephone at the earliest opportunity.

34 Protests

- 34.1 All protests must be made in writing by the captain of the protesting team and forwarded to reach the pennant secretary, together with the grounds for such protest, within three days of the date of the protested event. The match must be played out to completion and the score sheet signed 'Under Protest'
- 34.2 The protesting team shall also forward to the opposing team a duplicate copy of the protest within three days of the date of the protested event.
- 34.3 Such protest shall be considered by the Pennant Committee, and the result of the protest will be communicated to both teams prior to the date on which the next match would be played.
- 34.4 When such protest is open for discussion, any member of the Pennant Committee who is a member of one of the teams involved shall refrain from voting on the protest.
- 34.5 Representatives of the teams concerned in the protest shall be entitled to present their case.
- 34.6 The Pennant Committee's decision will normally be final.
- 34.7 The Committee of Management shall hear all appeals. A team or member can only appeal the judgement of the Pennant Committee where it can identify the judgement was in clear breach of the rules of the ITTF or the current MPTTA match rules and regulations. All appeals must be in writing setting the reason for the appeal and be delivered to the MPTTA Secretary within 21 days of the Pennant Committee judgement. A representative (or representatives as deemed necessary) has the right to present the appellant's case at the Committee of Management meeting when the appeal is being heard.
- 34.8 The Committee of Management's decision will be final.

35 Referees and Umpires

- 35.1 A Duty Officer shall be considered the Referee or Acting Referee and be in attendance at the MPTTA stadium on each night of pennant competition. This person's duties will be to:-
 - a) Ensure that correct attire is worn by all players
 - b) Ensure that a proper standard of behaviour is maintained by all players.
 - c) Adjudicate in disputes.
 - d) Maintain the relevant rules and regulations.
 - e) Report any player who is guilty of misconduct, misbehaviour, misdemeanour, or otherwise has tended to bring the sport and or the MPTTA into disrepute.
 - f) All members of the Association must comply with any determination, direction or order given by the Duty Manager pursuant to these Match Rules and Regulations and the current ITTF handbook.
- 35.2 Umpires shall be appointed either as per instruction on the score sheet for each match or alternatively by the teams competing.
- 35.3 The decision of the scoring umpire shall be final on any question during a game, provided always that the Duty Officer may be approached for adjudication on points of law.
- 35.4 It is the scoring umpire's sole right to call a let during a game. However a player may ask the umpire for a decision if a let was not called when the player feels that it should have been, or if the umpire was unsighted at the time.

- 35.5 The Committee of Management shall appoint Duty Officers for each daily session and Tournament Referees for each open and closed tournament.
- 35.6 Where practicable, all rubbers must be umpired by a person other than a player involved in the rubber that is currently being played

36 Results of Pennant Matches

- 36.1 The captain (or his/her deputy) from each team must sign the score sheet at the completion of the pennant match after paying particular attention to the correct recording of all rubbers, games and individual totals.
- 36.2 At the conclusion of each match, a player from the home team shall place the result sheet in the result box.
- 36.3 In the event of a walkover, a player of the team present on the night shall place in the result box a completed score sheet showing the walkover and the team players present. Failure to lodge a 'Walkover' score sheet will result in NO points for both teams.

37 Service.

- 37.1 Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the server's stationary free hand.
- 37.2 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.
- 37.3 As the ball is falling the server shall strike it so that it touches first his or her court and then, after passing over or around the net assembly, touches directly the receiver's court; in doubles, the ball shall touch successively the right half court of server and receiver.
- 37.4 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 or her doubles partner or by anything they wear or carry.
- 37.5 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. The space between the ball and the net is defined by the ball, the net and its indefinite upward extension.
- 37.6 It is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire or the assistant umpire can be satisfied that he or she complies with the requirements of the Laws, and either may decide that a service is incorrect.
- 37.7 If either the umpire or the assistant umpire is not sure about the legality of a service he or she may, on the first occasion in a match, interrupt play and warn the server; but any subsequent service by that player or his or her doubles partner which is not clearly legal shall be considered incorrect.

38 Suspension of Play in Pennant Competition

- 38.1 It is the duty of the umpire to ensure that play throughout a match is as continuous as possible. (See 25.3)
- 38.2 The Duty Officer may allow a suspension of play if a player is temporarily incapacitated by an accident or sudden ill health, provided that in the opinion of the Duty Officer the suspension is not likely to be unduly disadvantageous to the opposing player or pair. However, a suspension shall not

be allowed for a disability which was present at the beginning of a match, or for cramp or exhaustion due to the normal stress of play.

- 38.3 Any suspension allowed under rule 38.2 shall be of the shortest practical duration, and in no circumstances more than 10 minutes,
- 38.4 In the event of a power failure or other circumstances necessitating a halt in play, all rubbers completed up to the time of cessation of play shall stand. All teams shall await a direction from the Duty Manager. If the match cannot be resumed, the completion of the match shall be held over to a date which shall be determined between the team captains and the Duty Manager or the Committee, in some instances, may declare a winner according to the state of the match at the time of abandonment.
- 38.5 If anyone in the playing area is bleeding, play shall be suspended immediately and shall not resume until that person has received medical treatment and all traces of blood have been removed from the playing area.
- 38.6 The ITTF rules regarding suspension of play shall be followed for all matches.

39 Times of Play and Penalties

- 39.1 If commencement of play is delayed in any match, the offending team should be reported to the Duty Officer who may apply rule 39.2 if the reason for the delay is not considered reasonable.
- 39.2 All pennant matches shall commence from the official start time and if team member/s are not ready to play the following table of rules shall be applied:

Time after official start time	Penalty for all Pennant Teams
15 minutes after start time	No team member present to play : 1st rubber forfeited
30 minutes after start time	No team member present to play: Walkover is awarded

- 39.3 Where, in the opinion of the Duty Officer, a pennant match will not finish within a reasonable amount of time, the table below shall be brought into force, by the duty officer who is empowered to inform the captains of both teams that the match must be played on two or more tables. If one of the captains refuses to carry out such instructions, then that team shall forfeit any rubbers which are not completed by the required time. (NOTE; this rule does not apply to finals matches).

Maximum playing times of pennant matches before 2 tables must be used:

	2-Player Team Best of 5	2-Player Team Best of 7	3-Player Team Best of 3	3-Player Team Best of 5	3-Player Team Best of 7
Singles & Doubles	2hr 15min	2hr 45min	2hr 30min	2hr 45min	3hr 30min
Singles only			2hr	2hr 15min	2hr 45min

40 Tournaments

- 40.1 MPTTA members representing the MPTTA in tournaments must wear a club top.
- 40.2 MPTTA members entering in Country Week competition must adhere to the relevant TTV rules.

41 Transfer of Players. A player registered as a member of a team may transfer to a different team within the same grade subject to the approval of the Committee of Management. However, an application for such transfer will not be considered by the Committee of Management where the application is submitted to the Committee of Management after the completion of the first round of matches (all teams having played each other once) of the pennant season.

42 Walkovers

- 42.1 A team receiving a walkover shall be credited with 4 match points, all rubbers, games and points.
- 42.2 Any team giving a walkover is required to notify the Team Captain of the opposing team and the Pennant Secretary as early as possible prior to the match.
- 42.3 In the event of a walkover, the team receiving the walkover is required to comply with the requirements set out in Regulation 36.3 (submit the match scoresheet). Failure to comply may result in a loss of match points and rubbers.

43 Withdrawals

- 43.1 If a team withdraws or is disqualified before a full round has been played, then all of its matches will become byes.
- 43.2 Where a team withdraws during the first round of a pennant season, all match results involving the withdrawn team shall be cancelled and opposing team shall be credited with the results of a bye.
- 43.3 If a team withdraws or is disqualified after a full round has been played, then all matches and individual rubber scores will stand for the completed round/s only. Any matches played after the end of the completed round/s will be declared byes.
- 43.4 Any team withdrawing during a pennant season, after the fixture has been completed, is likely to cause significant disruption to that pennant season. Consequently, any such team (or team members) wishing to play in a further pennant season in the following 12 months will be required to submit a special written application to the Pennant Secretary, giving reasons for their inclusion. This requirement may be waived by the Committee of Management in exceptional circumstances, upon written notice submitted to the Pennant Secretary by the team concerned, at the time of the initial withdrawal.
- 43.5 Where a player withdraws from a team after the draw has been completed for the pennant season, such said person remains liable for any outstanding pennant fees that the said player, or the team, may still owe. This penalty may be waived by the Committee of Management in exceptional circumstances, upon written notice submitted to the Pennant Secretary by the player involved.
- 43.6 The Committee of Management shall have the power to vary the requirements of this Regulation by providing written notice to the teams affected.
