

The Ilford and District Table Tennis League

SEASON 2015-2016



LEAGUE RULES

LEAGUE RULES 1

1. Title, Object, Constitution and Affiliation.

(a) The League shall be called the Ilford and District Table Tennis League, and its object shall be to promote Table Tennis among Clubs in the Ilford district.

(b) All clubs shall be affiliated through the League to Table Tennis England (formerly the ETTA), and Essex County Table Tennis Association (ECTTA).

2. Administration

(a) The League shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of a Chairman or Chairwoman, Vice-Chairman or Vice-Chairwoman, Hon. General Secretary, Assistant Hon. general Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Divisional Secretary, Match Secretary, ECTTA Representative, Competition Secretary and four other members. The Executive Committee may co-opt additional members.

The Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall meet at least three times during the calendar year, five members constituting a quorum.

(b) The Executive Committee shall appoint a sub-committee consisting of Chairman or Chairwoman, Hon. General Secretary and/or Assistant Hon. General Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, to act on behalf of the main Committee between Meetings.

(c) A President, or joint Presidents, Vice-Presidents and two Auditors shall also be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(d) A selection Committee shall be appointed, two members of which may be elected from Clubs at the AGM.

3. Entrance Fees and Applications for Membership

(a) Clubs shall pay an annual subscription for the first team entered in the League and a further sum for each additional team, plus any levies made by TTE and ECTTA. All fees shall be set at the AGM. and advised to Clubs by the Hon. Gen. Sec.

(b) All new applicants for Membership of the League must be made in writing to reach the Hon. Gen. Sec. not later than July 1st accompanied by a non-returnable entrance fee of £1.00

(c) Clubs must advise the Hon. Gen. Sec. by July 1st of teams to be entered the following season. At this time they must also provide a provisional ranking list. The League reserves the right to refuse on reasonable grounds the registration of any individual.

4. Annual General Meeting

(a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held during May, at least fourteen days' notice being given to Clubs.

(b) Nominations for Officers of the Executive Committee, together with resolutions for discussion at the meeting must be forwarded in writing by Affiliated Clubs to reach the Hon. General Secretary not later than March 31st, and will be included on the notice sent to all clubs convening the meeting.

No rule change proposals will be accepted from the floor at the A.G.M.

(c) All members shall have the right to attend the Annual General Meeting, but voting shall be restricted to two members (appointed by each club) each of whom shall have one vote. A majority vote shall secure adoption.

(d) Any club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting shall be fined the appropriate amount. If this fine has not been paid by the first day of the following season the club or clubs involved will not be eligible to enter teams in the League for that season, nor any subsequent season until the appropriate fine has been paid.

5. Special General Meeting

(a) A special General Meeting may be called by the Hon Gen Sec, if it be desired by the Executive Committee, or within fourteen days of receipt of a letter signed by more than half the number of affiliated clubs.

Seven days notice (minimum) shall be given to clubs stating the business for which the meeting is called and only this business shall be discussed at the meeting.

(b) Voting shall be as for an Annual General Meeting.

(c) Any club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting shall be fined the appropriate amount. If this fine has not been paid by the first day of the following season the club or clubs involved will not be eligible to enter teams in the League for that season, nor any subsequent season, until the appropriate fine has been paid.

6. Alteration to Rules

(a) No alteration to Rules shall be made except at the Annual General meeting or at a Special General Meeting called in accordance with Rule 5 (a).

(b) Any proposed alterations must be made in writing by Affiliated Clubs to the Hon General Secretary not later than March 31st for the Annual General Meeting or with the letter sent in accordance with Rule 5 (a).

(c) All proposed alterations to Rules shall be notified to Club Secretaries

by the Hon Gen Sec at least fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting or with the letter calling for a Special General Meeting.

7. Fixtures and Handbooks

The League fixtures shall be arranged by the Executive Committee and the clubs shall notify their available evenings for each team's home matches. Fixtures shall be printed in the League Handbook which shall be issued not later than September 15th.

8. Methods and Conditions of Play

(a) Matches shall commence not later than 7.30pm, or the published start time as agreed by the Executive Committee, Monday to Friday, and a start be made, even if the order has to be varied in the singles. At least one player from each team must be present within fifteen minutes of the published start time. Failing this, points may be claimed by the non-defaulting team at the rate of one per quarter hour of lateness. This means for example that a match due to start at 7.30 must be able to start by 7.45. Games claimed shall be taken in order from the regular order of play, and may not then be played. Players not arriving within one hour of the published start time shall take no part in the match, their games going by default to their opponents, their ranked positions remaining vacant. All or part of the effect of this rule may, for individual matches, be nullified by agreement between the clubs concerned.

(b) Other than when the Executive Committee considers there to have been exceptional circumstances, matches may be postponed only for the following reasons:

(i) If a player is to represent the Ilford League or his/her County, Region, or Country on the same night as a scheduled match in which he/she is due to play then that match may be postponed.

(ii) On religious grounds.

(iii) Owing to unavailability of the venue.

(iv) In addition to the above reasons for postponement, every team is allowed one postponement per season for unspecified reasons. Such a postponement must be agreed by BOTH team captains at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled date of the match in question, and if agreement cannot be reached then the match must be played on the scheduled date, or a walkover awarded.

If such agreement is obtained then the Divisional Secretary MUST be notified BEFORE the original scheduled date of the match. A new date for the match must be agreed between the two teams and the Divisional Secretary notified within 7 days of the agreement of the postponement. If the Divisional Secretary is not kept fully informed then the postponement will not be allowed.

If the postponed match is subsequently not rearranged within 7 days, or not played, then the match will be awarded as a walkover to the team not responsible for the postponement.

NOTE: This reason for postponement is not a right and it is perfectly reasonable for an opposing team captain to refuse such a request if it disadvantages him/her, eg because of the cost or difficulty of rebooking the venue, or unavailability of players.

Clubs may be required to provide evidence supporting the reason for postponements allowed under (i) to (iii) above. Sickness, holiday or similar reasons for unavailability will not be considered exceptional.

Applications for postponement must be made in writing to the Divisional Secretary as early as possible before the fixture is due and a confirming letter sent within 72 hours of the date of the match. The appropriate Results Secretary must be informed by the postponing club once the postponement is agreed. In the Divisional Secretary's absence the appropriate Results Secretary should be approached. In the event of the Committee's granting a postponement of any match, only players eligible for the teams on the original date of the match shall be eligible to play in the postponed match, (players since rendered ineligible by the 4-up rule shall be considered eligible) except with the prior consent of the Executive Committee.

Postponed matches must be played on an agreed date but not later than the first available week set aside specifically for postponements. In this case the home team's home night shall be fixed as the match date.

With the agreement of both team captains, any League or Cup match may be played before the scheduled date.

(c) A Club whose team fails to arrive for any scheduled fixture, including officially sanctioned postponed matches, without giving at least 24 hours notice, shall be fined £10. Teams failing to give any kind of useful notice shall be fined £20. Teams conceding match walkovers under any circumstances and regardless of notice given shall be fined £5 on the second occasion and £5 on each subsequent occasion.

When on religious grounds a team is unable to play on the home team's usual home night, the home team shall be asked to make alternative arrangements for the match to be played.

(d) Protests regarding any match must be made by the Club Secretary in writing to the appropriate Results Secretary within three days of the match having been played. The Results Secretary shall immediately inform the Secretary of the Club or team protested against, in a letter requesting the

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latter's comments. Should the Club protested against so require it, its Secretary or one other of its members shall be granted a personal hearing at the next meeting of the Executive Committee, which he or she may attend solely for the duration of the enquiry into the protest. No decision concerning the protest shall be made prior to the Executive Committee meeting.

(e) At the end of each season, the bottom placed team in Division 1 shall be relegated to Division 2. The top placed team of Division 2 shall be promoted to Division 1. At the other divisional boundaries the two top teams shall be promoted one division, the two lowest placed teams shall, subject to the discretion of the Executive Committee, be relegated one division.

In the case of a tie on points for any promotion or relegation position, the final positions shall be decided by reckoning won fixtures, then drawn fixtures, and then individual games won. In a case where the reckoning includes a decisive number of walkover games, the outcome shall be decided by a special match or matches.

A vacancy or vacancies in any Division may be filled by the team or teams with the next best record in the Division below or at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

(f) New teams shall enter in the lowest Division unless otherwise decided by the Executive Committee.

(g) **No player may play in more than one fixture on the same night, at the same venue or otherwise, unless all relevant ITTL captains agree. Such agreement must be indicated on each affected Ilford League match card by the appropriate opposition team captain's signature next to the name of any such player playing in another fixture. Failure to obtain such agreement or failure to mark a match card accordingly shall result in that player's being rendered ineligible for that fixture. Where two venues are involved the appropriate permissions must be made known to the Divisional Secretary or the division's Results Secretary before the match.**

(h) League tables must be posted on the League's website, and/or sent to clubs by email by the respective Results Secretaries, as often as reasonably possible, and in any case after every three or four playing weeks.

(i) Where a team is using separate practice facilities during a League or cup match at their venue these facilities must be made equally available to the visiting team.

(j) Teams shall consist of three or four players, ranked and numbered in order of playing strength as registered. If a fourth player competes, that member of the team may participate in the doubles only. There may be guest players, i.e. players among the three team members, nominated (and clearly marked on the score card) as playing but non-scoring. Such players shall be unaffected so far as eligibility, 4-up rule and so on are concerned, and need not be registered members of the Ilford League (but must not be players who have been refused registration). Players expected to play, but absent, should be included on the score card.

In all Divisions, matches shall consist of nine singles and one doubles set, best of five games, viz (Home team first):

1v2, 3v1, 2v3, 3v2, 1v3, 2v1, 3v3, 2v2, 1v1, Doubles.

(k) Matches must be played to a finish. Points to be awarded on the basis of one point for each set won. Therefore ten points per match will be available.

Defaulted fixtures shall be decided on the following basis:

the defaulting team shall receive no points; the non-defaulting team shall, at the end of the season, be awarded one of (i) the average number of points scored by that team in all league matches played by it during the season or (ii) the same number of points as scored by it against the defaulting team in the other half of the season (unless that game itself includes defaulted points) or (iii) 6 points, whichever is the greatest total. Where circumstances are exceptional, the given formula shall be subject to the Committee's discretion.

9. Registration

(a) Clubs must register their players through the Divisional Secretary. No registration will be accepted unless accompanied by the appropriate fee and any levy made by the ECTTA. and TTE (formerly ETTA). The Divisional Secretary will issue handbooks upon proper receipt of the fees.

(b) **Players become eligible to play seven days after registration. Any Club fielding a player who is unregistered, or not identifiable from the scorecard, shall be dealt with as the Executive Committee considers fit. This may mean a fine, docked points, or both. "Identifiable" for the purposes of this Rule means that the name on the scorecard is exactly that registered with the Ilford League.** No registration will be accepted after 31st December without the prior consent of the Executive Committee. The foregoing does not apply to re-rankings, as described in rule 9 (h).

(c) A player can be registered by one Club, and play for one Club only, except as provided for by Rule 11.

(d) In registering players, clubs must enter and name their strongest players

(in order of merit), for their first team, then their next strongest for their second team and so on.

(e) No player may play below his ranked position. A club's three highest ranked players are eligible only for its first team, players 4-6 only for its first and second teams, and so on. Any player may play in a higher team or teams than the lowest for which his ranking makes him eligible up to a maximum of **four league** matches in any one season. Beyond that number of matches his eligibility for the lower team is forfeited **for both league and cup matches** and he becomes eligible **only** for the higher team or teams, still subject to the '4-up' rule. If the changing of a player's ranked position makes him eligible for a lower team, the 4 match totting up system (the 4-up Rule) starts again from the date of implementation of that change. In specific cases where this rule conflicts with Rule 9 (g), Rule 9 (g) takes precedence i.e. the '4-up' rule is waived. *Playing for a team in a "doubles only" capacity is NOT reckoned for totting up purposes.* Note that re-rankings may be refused if the Committee considers them to be inconsistent with the club's ranking order.

Games expunged by the League from a team's record remain on a player's personal record and continue to count for Cup eligibility, the 4-Up Rule and so on.

(f) Teams must have a current ranking list available at all matches.

(g) In the case of a fixture between two teams of the same club in a Division, the Senior team must consist of the higher ranking players playing in that match whether or not either or both teams remain incomplete, unless allowed otherwise by the Executive Committee through the appropriate Results secretary. Note that this rule does NOT apply to Cup matches.

(h) Clubs must give 28 days' notice to the Divisional Secretary, in writing, of any proposed change to be made in the ranked order.

10. Results

After each fixture the home team for that fixture must forward to the appropriate Results Secretary the result card countersigned by the visiting team captain within **48 hours** or in default be fined. If this fine is not paid within 21 days, a further £1 will be added for each 21 days it is late. In League competition only – on the second occasion of a late scorecard the team concerned shall be docked one league point, on the third, two points, and so on.

11. Transfers

No player shall transfer from one club to another *during the playing season* without permission from the Executive Committee.

12. Duration of the Playing Season

The duration of the playing season shall be decided by the Executive Committee.

13. Playing Conditions

Playing conditions of all clubs must be approved by the Executive Committee.

14. Equipment

Suitable dark Table Tennis clothing **MUST** be worn in all matches in accordance with current TTE rules. Racquets must have approved coverings on each side, one bright red, one black.

15. Permanent trophies

Winners of trophies shall give a written guarantee as to safe custody and must return them on request of the League. Failure to do so will result in an appropriate fine.

16. Withdrawals

(a) Any club withdrawing from the League after the Fixture list has been completed shall forfeit the Entrance Fee.

(b) The record of any club withdrawing from the League during the playing season shall be expunged.

17. Rights of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall have the power to deal with all matters not covered by these Rules, and shall be empowered to inflict such penalties as it thinks proper, for any infringement of the letter or intention of these Rules.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR CUPS, CLOSED COMPETITIONS AND REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

18. (a) The Team Knock-Out Championships shall consist of one Open Competition, one Handicap Competition and Divisional Competitions at the discretion of the Executive Committee. In all competitions a straight draw shall be made for all rounds (no seeding). For Handicap purposes, teams may be arranged in squads. and will be handicapped accordingly. Squad

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lists will be binding on clubs. Teams may be rehandicapped if players not included in the original squad lists become eligible and are not specifically excluded by their clubs. In the normal course of events matches should be played on the appropriate home night of the home team.

(b) All entries for the cup competitions must be made by the end of the first week of the playing season.

(c) Eligibility in cup competitions shall be decided as follows. With every cup date printed in the handbook there will be printed a Key Number. The key represents the number of League Matches that a player must have played for his team by that date to be eligible to play for his team in that round of any cup.

An otherwise ineligible lower ranked player may play for a higher team provided that (a) his inclusion does not increase the eligible team's strength as reckoned by rankings; and (b) he is not already cup-tied to another team in the same competition. **Clubs are advised to consult the competition organiser before taking this step.**

(d) Any player having played for a team in a Cup Match is automatically cup-tied and cannot play for any other team in that particular competition.

(e) Teams shall be of three players, in ranked playing order, each playing two singles and two doubles sets, best of five games (nine matches) except for the Handicap Cup where sets shall always be four games. The Home team shall take the letters A, B and C on the scorecard, and the Away team X, Y and Z.

The method and order of playing shall be as follows:

B/C v Y/Z, A v X, C v Y, B v Z, A/C v X/Z, A v Y, B v X, C v Z, A/B v X/Y.

All nine sets must be played, unless both captains agree otherwise.

In any event nine results including walkovers must appear on the score card. In the event of a tie in the Handicap Competition the team with the higher handicap figure, i.e. the lower rated team, shall be adjudged the winner. *If the two teams have the same handicap, the team drawn away shall be adjudged the winner.*

(f) The winning captain must forward the score card, signed by both captains, to the Competitions Secretary **within 48 hours** of the match or be fined the amount notified in the current handbook.

(g) If, due to the unavailability of eligible players, a team cannot fulfil a cup fixture it may request a postponement from the opposing team captain. **The request must be made at least 24 hours before the match is due to start.** If such agreement is obtained then the Competitions Secretary must be notified immediately of the postponement by the requesting team captain.

Where the next set of fixtures for that competition is on a round robin basis, the tie must be played before those fixtures. Where the next round is on a knockout basis, the tie must be played at least 3 weeks before those fixtures, in order to allow time for the necessary arrangements to be made.

A new date for the tie must be agreed between the two teams and the Competitions Secretary notified within 7 days of the agreement of the postponement. Eligibility of players for the rearranged tie will be in accordance with the regulations appropriate to the original date the tie was scheduled to be played.

If the postponed tie is subsequently not rearranged within 7 days, or not played, then the tie will be awarded to the team not responsible for the **original** postponement.

For any cup tie rearranged as above, within 24 hours of the match being played the winning team must notify the Competitions Secretary of the result (including the winning team player names and their rankings on the night) by phone or email. The scorecard must be posted within the usual 72 hours; any discrepancies could result in the forfeit of the tie.

19. The Individual Championships

(a) The organisation of this competition shall rest with the Executive Committee.

(b) The competition shall be open to players who have played 33% of their League matches by the closing date of entry, or whose standard of play is below that of the lowest team for which they are eligible, or whose eligibility satisfies the League Committee.

20. Representative Matches

Only regular team players who have played at least 50% of their League Matches that season by the date of the Representative Match or whose bona-fides regarding Ilford status satisfies the Executive, shall be eligible for selection. Players selected for a Representative Match who fail to arrive at the match and do not have a reason acceptable to the Committee shall be banned from Representative play for one season.

Any point not covered by these Rules is subject to Rule 17.

GUIDANCE ON THE PRINCIPAL RULES OF PLAY

A Good Service

The ball shall be placed on the palm of the free hand, which must be stationary, open and flat, with the fingers together and the thumb free. The free hand, while in contact with the ball in service, and the racquet, shall at all times be above and behind the level of the playing surface.

The server shall then project the ball vertically or near-vertically upwards by hand only and without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16cm (6 inches) after leaving the palm of the free hand. (see 'In Play' below). As the ball is then descending from the height of its trajectory, the server shall strike it so that it touches first his own court and then, passing directly over the net or around or under the projection of the net and its supports outside the table, touches the receiver's court.

From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing service and behind the server's end-line and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by any part of the body or clothing of 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 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 can see that he complies with the requirements of a good service. If the umpire has an element of doubt about the correctness of a player's service, he may interrupt play and warn the player on the first occasion without awarding a point. On any subsequent occasion in the match on which the player's service is of doubtful correctness, the umpire shall award the point to his opponent.

Note – In singles or doubles, all points scored before the discovery of a wrong server or failure to change ends shall be reckoned.

In Play

The ball is in play from the last moment at which it is STATIONARY on the palm of the server's free hand before being projected in service. NOTE that the 16cm relates to the highest point reached by the ball – it need not travel absolutely vertically.

The Choice of Order of Play

The winner of the toss may choose the right to serve or receive. The winner of the toss may, if he prefers, require his opponent to make first choice.

Doubles

The pair which has the right to serve the first two services in any game shall decide which partner shall do so. In the first game of a match the opposing pair shall then decide similarly which shall be the first receiver. The order of service is then established automatically to correspond with the rules set out below.

The Order of Service

Throughout each game, except as provided in the second paragraph, the first two services shall be delivered by the selected partner of the pair who have the right to do so and shall be received by the appropriate partner of the opposing pair. The second two services shall be delivered by the receiver of the first two services. The third two services shall be delivered by the partner of the server of the first two services. The fourth two services shall be delivered by the partner of the receiver of the first two services. The fifth two services shall be delivered as the first two services. And so on, in sequence, until the end of the game or the score 10 all, when the sequence of serving and receiving shall be uninterrupted, but each player shall serve only one service in turn until the end of the game.

In the deciding game of a match when the score in games stands even, the receiving pair must reverse its order of receiving when first either pair reaches the score 5.

Throughout the third game where there is no such alteration, up to the score 5 where there is such an alteration in it, and up to the score 5 in the fifth game, each partner shall receive from the opponent who served to him in the first game. Throughout the second and fourth games, and after the score 5 in the third or fifth game where such an alteration has occurred, each partner shall receive from the opponent to whom he served in the first game.

Legal racquet

All racquets must be covered and you must use authorised coverings, namely TTE prescribed Black and Bright Red coverings, red one side, black the other. If in doubt consult the League.

FINES

Non-attendance at AGM – £5; late score card – £2.00.

Non-appearance at a Match – £10 and £20. (See rule 8c). Conceding a walkover, on second and subsequent occasions – £5.00.

FEES

ECTTA £9.00 per team; Ilford £5.00 per team, £3.00 per player, Juniors (U18) free. Cups £1.00 per team per competition.

TTE Individual Annual Fee – this season £10.00, Juniors and Cadets £5.00.

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RESULTS 2013-2014

2014-2015 CUP AND TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Cups	Winner	Runner up
Division 1 Bill Dawson Cup	Mossford 1	Woodford Wells 1
Division 2 Frank Biggs Cup	Mossford 4	Woodford Wells 2
Division 3 Cup	Rhodium	Redb'ge Grove 1
Handicap Cup	Mossford 4	Heathcote 5

Century Shield: Tied by Mossford 1 (Division 1) and Redbridge Grove 1 (Div 3). Both teams achieved 103 points from 13 games.

2015 CLOSED TOURNAMENT

	Winner	R/Up
*Open Singles	Matt Spero	Keith Lesser
Womens Singles	No event	
Handicap Singles	A. Rosenfeld	Lukasz Lewandowski
*Open Doubles	L. Lewandowski & Sal Ahmed	Keith Lesser & Dan Spurling
Womens Doubles	No event	
Mixed Doubles	No event	
Veterans Singles	M. Wood	J. King
Veterans Doubles	No event	
Div 2/3 Singles	Josh Dye	Colin Green
Div 3 Singles	No event	
Under 18 Doubles	No event	
Under 18 Singles	No event	

*In years when there are not enough entries to support Women's events, Men's events are open.

EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS 2014-15

Essex Interleague	Senior Men – Champions. Vets – Div 1, Runners-up.
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2014-2015 FINAL LEAGUE TABLES

Division 1	P	W	D	L	Pts
Mossford 1	20	18	1	1	153
Mossford 2	20	11	1	8	98
Mossford 3	20	7	0	13	92
Heathcote 2	20	7	1	12	81
Woodford Wells 1	20	6	2	10	80
Heathcote 1	20	5	3	12	80

Unallocated points 16.

Division 2	P	W	D	L	Pts
Mossford 4	20	15	3	2	133
Woodford Wells 2	20	14	0	6	122
Heathcote 3	20	8	5	7	101
Heathcote 5	20	7	4	9	97
Heathcote 4	20	6	2	12	82
Mossford 5	20	3	0	17	61

Unallocated points 4.

Division 3	P	W	D	L	Pts
Redbridge Grove 1	20	15	5	0	158
Mossford 6	20	11	4	5	125
Rhodium	20	8	7	5	107
Heathcote 6	20	7	3	10	90
Mossford 7	20	5	4	11	67
Redbridge Grove 2	20	2	1	17	52