



The Romford and District Table Tennis League

Founded 1937

Rule Book

Affiliated to Table Tennis England and Essex County Table Tennis Association

In Association with



<https://jarvissports.co.uk/>

Romford & District Table Tennis League Rules

1. Title, Object, Constitution and Affiliation

- a) The League shall be called 'The Romford and District Table Tennis League and its objective is to arrange and conduct competitions and championships between clubs and players and promote the sport.
- b) The League will consist of as many Divisions as deemed necessary by the Management Committee.
- c) A Club must have its headquarters within a reasonable distance of Romford in order to be eligible for admission to the League. The club venue should comply with Table Tennis England rules as far as possible, e.g., adequate lighting, floor and runback.

Note: Reasonable latitude will be allowed in the interpretation of this condition, but the table must conform to standard measurements.
- d) All Clubs must be affiliated through the League to the Essex County Table Tennis Association (E.C.T.T.A).
- e) The rules of Table Tennis England and the E.C.T.T.A shall be deemed to be incorporated in these rules unless inconsistent therewith when the rules of the League shall take preference.

2. Administration

- a) A Management Committee will consist of the following, as a minimum:
 - Chairman.
 - General Secretary.
 - Treasurer; and
 - Divisional Secretary

Other League Officers may consist of President, Vice-Chairman, Asst. General Secretary, Asst. Divisional Secretary, Match Secretary, Secretary for Junior Affairs, Publicity Officer and Social Secretary.
- b) The Management Committee is responsible for the general administration and governance of the League. This Committee has the power to expel players or Clubs found guilty of flagrant breaches of these rules. In the case of League or Championship disputes, it will form the court of appeal when such occasion arises. Three members of the Committee are required to form a quorum.
- c) All Officers, Vice-Presidents other than those holding life office and Committee Members must be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting.
- d) The funds of the League shall be generally kept at a bank.

- e) All withdrawals must bear the signatures of two of the following Officers: Chairman, General Secretary or Treasurer.
- f) The financial year of the League shall end on March 31st and the Treasurer's report and accounts shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

3. Subscriptions and Application for Membership

- a) All Clubs must pay an Annual Subscription, as determined at the Annual General Meeting, for each team entered into the League plus any additional E.C.T.T.A. fees. The full amount of the Annual Subscription and E.C.T.T.A. fees together with any fines levied by the League must be paid by the 25th of August.
- b) All applications for membership of the League must be made in writing to the General Secretary on or before July 15th of each year and approved by the Management Committee.

4. Annual General Meeting

- a) The Annual General Meeting will be held not later than June 30th, at least three weeks' notice being given to Clubs.
- b) All members have the right to attend the Annual General Meeting. For the purposes of right to vote, voting will be '**one vote per team**' from each Club entered in the League. This is recognised as being **only one delegate representing the team, not the whole team.**
- c) Any Club not represented at the Annual General Meeting shall be fined £10.00.

5. Special General Meeting

- a) A Special General Meeting may be convened by the Management Committee should they consider it necessary or within fourteen days of receipt by the General Secretary of a written application for such a meeting from at least one third of the affiliated Clubs.
- b) Voting will be as for the Annual General Meeting.

6. Alteration to Rules

- a) No alteration to these Rules may be made except at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting held in accordance with Rule 5.
- b) Proposals for alterations to these rules must be made in writing to reach the General Secretary by March 31st, or with written application forwarded in accordance with Rule 5.

- c) All eligible proposals will be circulated to all Club Secretaries by April 21st and amendments or alternative proposals dealing with the same subject matter will be accepted for consideration by the A.G.M. if submitted in writing and received by the General Secretary not later than May 7th. Amendments to proposed rule changes can be discussed at the AGM or SGM and agreed if voted for by the majority of voting members.
- d) The Committee is authorised to run trials of rule changes pending formal adoption of that change.

7. Fixtures and Rule Books

All fixtures will be arranged by the Management Committee and distributed to Club Secretaries in an electronic format via an email file which will contain the URL link to the TTE League Management Romford website. The email file and URL link will provide/allow access to the following: a list of Club details, Tables for Matches Dates and Draw/Home Nights. The URL link will also allow access to the Romford League Rule Book.

It will be the responsibility of Club Secretaries to ensure that all their members playing in the League are provided with either a printed copy of the Fixtures information or the URL to ensure players are aware they have a web access option. All players should be made aware of the URL link to access the Romford League Rule Book. Any issues being raised to the Committee because of lack of knowledge of the Rules will weaken that case for consideration by the Committee.

8. Method and Conditions of Play

- a) The League Competition will consist of three players per team. Teams will letter their players before the commencement of the match, not necessarily in order of playing strength. Each team will play 10 ties (9 singles and 1 doubles), best of 5 games as follows: -

Home Team		Away Team
A	V	X
B	V	Y
C	V	Z
B	V	X
A	V	Z
C	V	Y
B	V	Z
C	V	X
A	V	Y
Doubles Pair	V	Doubles Pair

Matches must be played to a finish. One point will be awarded to a team for each ties won, thus:

Result	10-0=winners	10 points, losers 0
	9-1=winners	9 points, losers 1
	8-2=winners	8 points, losers 2 and so on.

- b) The games will be played in accordance with the Rules adopted by Table Tennis England.
- c) Matches should start not later than 7.45p.m. and either team has the authority to call on the opposition team to start the match at this time. Any players not present at this time, unless mutually agreed by both Captains before the commencement of the match, will be deemed absent. The team short of the regulation number of players will forfeit the full number of ties the absentee or absentees would have played in that match.
- d) Where it is impossible to complete the whole of the match, the full facts, together with the known score must be submitted by both Club Secretaries within 48 hours to the Divisional Secretary.
- e) Matches must be played on the dates shown in the League Fixtures Book unless prior permission has been granted by the Divisional Secretary. However, matches can be brought forward and played earlier than the scheduled date, but the card must be clearly marked "Match brought forward." Permission will normally only be granted to postpone matches by the Divisional Secretary on the following grounds: -
- (i) A regular playing member of a team being required by England, Essex, or Romford on the same night as the league fixture.
 - (ii) Club premises not being available. In the event of a cancellation the home side must contact the away side and offer two alternative dates. Away teams must receive a week's notice of the first playing date offered. No date may be later than two weeks after the end of the league programme. In the event of any team not fulfilling an engagement in accordance with the foregoing, its opponents will be awarded the match and ten points.
 - (iii) Any team may have one postponement in each half of the season. Postponements must be agreed by both team captains and if agreement cannot be reached **then the match must be played on the scheduled date.**
- In addition, the Divisional Secretary must be notified beforehand and confirmed by email or letter of explanation giving details of the agreeing captain and the new date. **If confirmation is not received by the Divisional Secretary, then the postponement will not be allowed.**
- f) The umpires for each game must be mutually agreed on and the scoring generally should be undertaken by members of the home and away teams alternately. In cases of

dispute before the commencement of a tie, the visiting team has the choice of umpires. The umpire's decision on any disputed point shall be final.

- g) At the end of the season, the team finishing bottom in each division will be relegated to the next lower division and the top team from each division will be promoted to the next higher division. In the case of a tie on points by two or more teams, the team having won most matches will have preference over the other or others. If this should not prove conclusive, then the team having drawn most matches will have preference. Vacancies occasioned by withdrawals at the end of the season may be filled before the commencement of the next season by promotion from lower divisions, or by new Clubs reaching the required standard, at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- h) In the event of an extra division being formed, the Management Committee has the authority to relegate Clubs finishing in the bottom half of the last division, and the bottom four clubs in any other division.
- i) Without prejudice to the provisions in (c) and (e) regarding absentees and non-fulfilment of engagements, at the termination of the season, the following fines will be imposed on the Clubs of each team short of the regulation number of players as totalled in their matches throughout that season: -

Per tie forfeited	0 – 9	No fine
Per tie forfeited	10 – 16	£ 5
Per tie forfeited	17 – 23	£ 8 in addition
Per tie forfeited	24 – 30	£10 in addition
Per tie forfeited	31 – 37	£12 in addition
Per tie forfeited	38 – 44	£15 in addition
Per tie forfeited	45 & over	£18 in addition

A team not fulfilling an engagement shall be deemed to have forfeited 10 ties.

e.g., A team forfeiting 20 ties is fined $£5 + £8 = £13$

A team forfeiting 40 ties is fined $£5 + £8 + £10 + £12 + £15 = £50$

A team may therefore play one player short three times during the season and incur no penalty.

- j) A racquet shall not be changed during an individual match unless it is accidentally damaged so badly that it cannot be used.
- k) From the start of the service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, 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 area 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 of the Law and either may decide that a service is illegal.

An informative video is available on the TTE Romford League Team site that shows clearly a legal and illegal serve.

9. Registration

a) Only players registered with the Divisional Secretary and having a valid Table Tennis England Player License Number will be eligible to play in any League match or Championship controlled by the League. A single fee will be required to cover each registered team and the payment due will be determined/agreed at AGM before the commencement of each new season. This fee will include any additional E.C.T.T.A. levies. All players will be advised of the League Fixtures/Rules Book URL by the appropriate Club Secretary. Any team playing an unregistered player or not holding a valid TTE membership will forfeit the ties won by that player and, in addition, the Committee 'may' deduct 10 points from that team's points total for the season.

b) Table Tennis England fees must be paid before a player can take part in any League or Cup matches and refers to the Individual Player License. This must be renewed, either by the Club or individual, before the start of the season.

Failure to do so will result in players not being eligible to play. In the event of a Cup match the player will be disqualified and his/her games will not count. In a League match the same will apply, any won games will become void, and the Committee 'may' impose a 10-point penalty for the fielding of an unregistered player.

c) Applications for registration must be received, with the appropriate fee, by the Divisional Secretary at least one day before the players being registered are allowed to play.

d) Any number of players may be registered but, where more than one team is entered from a Club, registration for each team must be clearly shown and a minimum of three players must be registered for each team. No player will be permitted to drop to a lower team without the prior approval of the Management Committee. No player may transfer from one Club to another during the season without the agreement of both Clubs, written authority from the Management Committee and receipt of a further registration fee.

e) A member of a lower team can only play up four times for higher teams i.e. not four times for each higher team. On the fifth occasion that a player plays up they will automatically become a member of that team and therefore cannot play up for any other higher team in the current season.

If in ANY doubt, it is the team captain's responsibility to contact the Divisional Secretary for approval prior to a match taking place. No other Committee member can give approval for a player to play up.

Any team playing an ineligible player will forfeit the ties won by that player, In addition, 10 points will be deducted from that team's points total for the season.

- f) After 31st January, registrations or transfers of any description will only be considered at the Management Committee's discretion. A player cannot be registered for more than one team.

10. Results

- a) The Home team must forward a result card, signed by both Captains, to the Divisional Secretary upon the completion of the match. If no card is received within four days, the Home team shall be fined £1-00. It is the duty of the Home Captain to produce a result card and for both Captains to insert the names of their teams before the commencement of play. Any dispute concerning the score card shall be dealt with by the Divisional Secretary.
- b) The sending of the result card to the Divisional Secretary can be accomplished by post or electronic means.
- c) **The falsification of score cards will be penalised by the deduction of 30 points.**

11. Clothing

A player must wear regulation clothing and soft-soled shoes whilst playing in any match or competition controlled by the League. Players in representative matches should wear royal blue shirts, Romford badge (if awarded) with grey shorts or skirt.

12. Individual Championships

- a) Entries for the Romford Closed Championships. To be accepted, all players entering must be registered with Table Tennis England and the Romford League (in accordance with Rule 9a) and the player has appeared in, at least, 4 of his or her team's league matches up to the closing entry date of the Championships.

Proviso: This does not apply to players who are below the standard of their club teams in the League. In cases of dispute the decision of the Management Committee is final.

- b) In exceptional circumstances, application may be made to the Management Committee for dispensation. Such an application is to be received at least 48 hours before the closing entry date of the Championship.

13. Rights of the Management Committee

The Management Committee has the authority to deal with all issues not provided for in these Rules.

14. Norman Eastoe Handicap Cup Rules

The draw for the entire Norman Eastoe competition will be notified to Team Captains. The draw will detail the matches for the complete competition and be presented in a spreadsheet format. This will also be posted on the Romford TTE League Management website. In cases where clubs have more than one team, a player is **only allowed to play up for ONE MATCH** for a higher team and still be eligible for his own team in the competition.

The playing format for the competition will be conducted as a Group Stage for the first round, the winners of each group will then progress to a straight knockout competition. At the Group stage a team will be awarded 2 points for a win, no points for a loss. In the event of a draw, the AWAY team will be awarded the 2 points.

Appearances for a higher team in the Norman Eastoe Cup do not affect a player's league status. In order to qualify for this competition a player must have played in, at least, 10% of their team's league fixtures. Each team will be notified of their handicap prior to the start of the competition each season and this will remain the same throughout the competition. There will be 9 singles ties consisting of 4 games in each tie. The order of play to be the same as league matches using the 11 up scoring system. In the event of a points draw the away team will go through to the next round.

The score card supplied with the draw must be used.

15. Claude Humphrey Cup, Cross Cup, Phyllis Lauder Cup and Pat Latchford Trophy Rules

- a) The draw for each Divisional Cup competition will be made and appended to the Fixtures Handbook. The draw will detail the matches for the complete competition in a spreadsheet format. This will also be posted on the TTE League Management web site.

Only teams in Division 1 are eligible for the Claude Humphrey Cup. Teams in Division 2 are eligible for the Cross Cup and similarly teams in Division 3 are eligible for the Phyllis Lauder Cup and teams in Division 4 will be eligible for the Pat Latchford Trophy.

- b) Extra players can be registered until Christmas, with their names being sent to the Cup Competitions Secretary.
- c) Players are not required to play in any ranking order.
- d) All players must have played in at least 10% of their team's league matches. The 10% rule comes into effect from the Semi-Final round. If Clubs wish to use a player who has not qualified with the 10% rule permission must be obtained from the Cup

Competitions Secretary even if he or she is weaker than the general standard of the team.

- e) A player may play for a higher team, if it is in a different cup competition e.g., if a player is registered for a team in the Pat Latchford Trophy, he or she may if required, play for a team in the Phyllis Lauder Cup.
- f) Teams will consist of three players, playing 6 doubles and three singles matches, best of five games. Each round must be played to a finish irrespective of the score at any stage unless mutually agreed otherwise by the two captains.

Home Team to be A, B, C, and Away Team X, Y, Z. The order of play shall be as follows: -

AC v YZ, BC v XY, AB v XZ, C v Z, B v Y, A v X, BC v XZ, AB v YZ, AC v XY

- g) Throughout the League Programme special Cup Weeks are reserved for playing each round including the Semi-Finals and Final.

16. Cup Rules applying to all four Competitions

- a) Games will be played in accordance with the rules adopted by Table Tennis England. The method and conditions of play are, as appropriate, described in League Rules 8(c), (d), (e) and (f).
- b) A result card, signed by both Captains must be sent by the Captain of the winning team to the Cup Competitions Secretary within 48 hours. Failure to do so may result in the match being declared void.
- c) Matters arising from, or not provided for, by these Rules will be dealt with by the Cup Competitions Secretary but, notwithstanding his or her ruling, any issue in dispute may be referred to the Management Committee whose decision shall be final.

17 Dissolution

- a) Any member Club acting through its authorised representative may call for the dissolution of the League by giving notice in writing to the General Secretary.
- b) On receipt of such notice a SGM shall be convened within twenty-eight days of receipt, the purpose of which shall be solely to decide the motion by vote.
- c) Voting at the SGM shall be the same as for Rule changes in accordance with Rule 4.3.
- d) In the event that a motion to dissolve the League is carried, the Management Committee shall, by a date specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the assets and discharge the debts and liabilities of the League.
- e) Any remaining assets after discharging all debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to a voluntary organisation agreed by the SGM having objectives similar to those of the League.

CHAMPIONSHIP RECORDS - see the TTE League Management site