

Competitions Rules and Regulations

Venue:	Sport Wales National Centre, Sophia Close, Cardiff, CF11 9SW
Competition Referee:	Peter Higgins
Tournament Organisers:	Simon Oyler / Ryan Trigg
Organising Committee:	TTW Competitions Committee

Dates

Weekend One:	Saturday 7 th & Sunday 8 th October 2023
Weekend Two:	Saturday 27 th & Sunday 28 th January 2024
Entry Closing Date:	Friday 8 th September 2023

Code of Conduct

By entering the Team Championships of Wales, each player commits to the code of conduct which is a requirement of all players holding a valid membership, these codes can be found on Table Tennis Wales Website, and also when completing your Table Tennis Wales Player Membership.

Rules and Regulations

1. Name

The Competition shall be called "Team Championships of Wales". The title may also include the name of a sponsor or product.

2. Competition

Membership is open to:

- a) All Clubs affiliated to the Table Tennis Association of Wales Limited.

3. Management

The Team Championships of Wales shall be organised by the National Competitions Manager and the TCW Organiser for both the Senior and Veteran events.

4. Divisions

Divisions will generally unless otherwise notified consist of a minimum of 4 but not more than 6 teams. No more than 2 teams from the same club may play in any one division other than in exceptional circumstances.

5. Subscriptions / Entry Fees

The Annual Subscription for a single team entry fee is to be as specified in the entry form. Subscriptions to be included with the entry form. No team shall be allowed to play until all fees are paid.

6. Clothing

Each club will be responsible for ensuring that its representative team members wear the same player shirt during match play. All teams shall play in garments that conform to ITTF regulations. ITTF rules concerning a clash of colour will not apply.

The TCW Organiser will decide if a shirt does not comply. The penalty for failing to comply with this regulation shall be £10 per match, after a warning is given on the first occasion.

7. Players - Eligibility to play

Subject to the provisions below players may play in The Team Championship of Wales for any team.

a) All players must hold a **valid Competitive Membership** to Table Tennis Wales, or hold an equivalent to another ITTF Affiliated Association, **for the whole of the 2023-2024. No player shall compete without a valid Competitive Membership.** Ineligible players may have their results expunged and the club may suffer a £25 fine for each ineligible player (each match).

b) Players shall be bound to the club & team they have been registered by after the first match played subject to the transfer process below.

c) A player may play for a higher team of the same club. On a third appearance for a higher team the player is then bound to the higher team for the remainder of the season. In the event of a player playing for more than one higher team of the same league he/she is then bound to a higher team. In such a case the TCW Organiser will decide which higher team it shall be.

d) No player shall play for 2 teams in the division in which they are registered.

e) If a player is playing up for a higher team, they will not be able to play for the lower team for that round of matches. i.e., No player will be allowed to play 2 matches at the same time.

f) No players may be added into a team 7 days before the tournament. In exceptional circumstances where a player may be unavailable closer to the date of the tournament, an additional player must be registered 48 hours prior to the tournament at the discretion of the tournament lead. (Players may also be registered 48 hours before the commencement of the second weekend).

8. Transfers

a) In exceptional circumstances with the consent of the clubs concerned, the TCW Organiser may agree to the transfer during the season of a player from one club to another. Such a player becomes eligible to play for his/her new club immediately upon receipt of agreement from both leagues/clubs and by the TCW Organiser.

b) A player changing his club between seasons does not require to be transferred.

9. Fixtures

Matches will be played at the venues designated by the TCW Organiser.

10. Dates of Fixtures

The dates and venues of fixtures shall be arranged by the TCW Organiser with normally a maximum of three matches at any one session for any one team. Teams may not re-arrange fixtures except in exceptional circumstances and with the prior consent of the TCW Organiser.

11. Alteration of Dates

There shall be no alteration of dates except by the authority of the TCW Organiser.

12. Team Matches - Number of Events

Each team match shall consist of 6 individual matches, each player playing two members of the opposing team the best of five games of 11 points. The result of each team match shall be determined by the individual match results. League points shall be awarded as in Rule 13. All matches shall be played to a finish. All matches will be played using an approved ball supplied by TTW.

13. Method of Awarding League Points

In each team match overall league points shall be awarded as follows:

- 2 points to the winning team
- 1 point to both teams if a draw
- 0 points to the losing team

14. Constitution of Teams and Divisions

- a) Teams shall consist of a minimum of three players.
- b) Teams who enter consecutive seasons will generally be placed in the division they played the previous season, considering relegation/promotion at the end of the previous season.
- c) If the TCW Organiser considers that there has been a substantial change in playing strength of the teams, they may vary the above and place teams in different divisions based on the ranking of the whole team.
- d) All new teams will commence in the bottom division unless the TCW Organiser considers the strength of the team inappropriate for the bottom division in which case they may place the team in a higher division with the consultation of the competitions committee.
- e) Individual teams can choose their team ranking order for each match which cannot be altered after the start of the match concerned. The three players selected to compete in the team match shall be allocated HOME - ABC and Away – XYZ. Each team shall submit to the TCW Organiser present at the event the names of the players and the order intended for use 15 minutes prior to the start of the match.

15 Order of play

	Home Team	V	Away Team
Game 1)	Player 1	v	Player 2
Game 2)	Player 2	v	Player 1
Game 3)	Player 3	v	Player 3
Game 4)	Player 1	v	Player 1
Game 5)	Player 2	v	Player 3
Game 6)	Player 3	v	Player 2

The order of play may only be altered in exceptional circumstances by mutual agreement between captains and with the permission of the Team Championship of Wales Coordinator/National Competitions Manager present at the event.

N.B. This rule is not to be interpreted as allowing "alternate choices" for order of play.

If any variation of the above order has been allowed, the prescribed order of play is to be reverted to as soon as possible.

16. Time of Commencement of Matches

The TCW Organiser will set all starting times.

17. Late or Delayed Starts

a) If the first individual match is not commenced within fifteen minutes of the designated start time of the team matches, or subsequent individual matches within five minutes of the end of the previous individual match, owing to the absence of one player, shall be awarded to the opposing team, or if both players are absent then the event shall not be counted in the result.

b) Any match not played for the above reason shall be construed as having occupied fifteen minutes of time, and the forfeiture principle shall be applied in respect of individual matches played. Allowing for the maximum periods of grace, the next individual match after an un-played one must start not later than 25 minutes after the one last played.

c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, any team not present thirty minutes after the nominated start time of the team match shall be fined £50 as set out in Rule 21 and the match automatically awarded to the opposing team.

18. Exchange of Players' Names & Numbers

Before the commencement of a match the team captains shall indicate the names of the team members playing in that team match and the ranking order allotted to them to the TCW Organiser present at the session. This must take place fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of a match. It is the responsibility of the team captain to decide the placing of his/her team.

19. Referee

In the absence of a referee, the TCW Organiser present shall act as the Referee for the day and oversees the timing of matches, the correct observation of the rules of the game, and behaviour of players and deal with any complaints from captains. Each team shall score matches alternately.

20. Score Sheets

Official TTW score sheets shall be duly completed and signed by the respective captains of both teams and returned at the conclusion of each team match to the Referee. All score sheets must include a player's name and surname. Incorrectly or partially completed sheets may be ignored and errors may not be able to be rectified later.

21. Failure to Participate

In the event of a team failing to participate in a scheduled session, two points and 6 individual matches shall be awarded to the non-defaulting team. The defaulting or absent team will be fined £50 for the un-played team match. The defaulting team may appeal to the Board of Directors against the imposition of the fine, submitting reasons.

22. Incomplete Team

a) In the event of a team participating in a scheduled session with a player short, the opposing team shall be awarded the individual match/matches not played. A fine of £20 per team match shall be imposed upon the defaulting team, except when an individual player doesn't play as a result of an injury sustained during the scheduled session.

b) The remaining 2 players will occupy positions 1 & 2 with position 3 remaining blank.

c) In the event of only one player being available this will be deemed as a failure to participate and Rule 21 will come into effect.

23. Payment of Fines

All fines must be paid with 14 days of notification to the club.

Failure by a club to pay its fines within the specified time will result in the original fine being automatically doubled. Any fines still outstanding at the end of the season will mean that the offending club and the team members concerned may not be allowed to participate in Team Championship of Wales activities for future seasons. The team guarantee fee will be forfeited.

24. Protests and Disputes

All protests and disputes must be raised on the day with the TCW Organiser or Referee whose decision shall be final.

25. Safeguarding

There will be a nominated safeguarding person present at the competition. Any safeguarding concerns should be raised with the nominated person who will follow the procedure. Safeguarding procedures will be displayed at the competition.

26. Appeals

Appeals against fines shall be made in writing to the Company Secretary at the registered office address. The Board of Directors shall consider such appeals at the next available board meeting and have the power to waive these penalties should they consider the circumstances extenuating.

27. Promotion and Relegation

a) At the end of the second weekend, the winners and runners up from each division will be promoted, and the bottom 2 teams from each division will be relegated. This is provisional and dependent on the number of entries received. Points acquired on the first weekend will be carried forward to the second weekend.

b) The positions in a division shall be determined by the number of points obtained in accordance with rules 13 and 21. Teams with equal points will be separated by the ratio of individual matches won/lost. If teams are still equal, they will be separated by the results of the team matches between them.

28. Championship Awards

a) There will be cash prizes for the winners and runners up in the Premier Division and TTW shall present individual medals to up to 3 players of the winning team, second places team and third places teams in each division.

29. Other Matters

The TCW organisers shall have the power to amend these rules and to deal with any matters concerning the Team Championship of Wales not provided for in the rules regarding any conflict interpretation or inconsistency.

All TTW sanctioned events must take PRIORITY over any events organised by other table tennis National Governing Bodies. Selection by TTW a player for an event is classed as a sanctioned event.

Should a TCW session be cancelled due **unforeseen circumstances** then the organisers will endeavour to rearrange the weekend at the convenience of the majority of teams if this is deemed practicably possible.

TTW Competitions Committee