

# NORTH EAST HILLS TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION INC

## MATCH RULES

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## MATCH RULES

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**N.E.H.T.T.A. MATCH RULES** - August 1997 - alterations approved 25/3/99, 2/3/2000, Feb. 2001, 28/6/2001, 21/2/2002, 21/3/2002, 18/4/2002, 28/5/2003, 6/10/2005, 7/6/2007, (19.4) 17/2/2011, (Expedite rule 11.3 18/8/2011), 28/2/2013, 13/6/2013, 3/10/2013, 13/11/2013, 28/8/14, 10/9/15, 8/10/15, 21/4/16, 5/10/18, 30/8/18.

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### 1. **GENERAL :**

- 1.1 Authorisation :**  
The match rules are authorised by Clause 12(1) of the NEHTTA Constitution
- 1.2 Application :**  
The match rules apply to the Winter and Summer Seasons
- 1.3 Additional Rules :**  
“The Laws of Table Tennis” as determined by the ITTF shall apply to the Winter and Summer Seasons.
- 1.4 Interpretation :**  
The Management Committee shall interpret the Match Rules when required generally. The President shall Interpret the Match Rules in an emergency except where the President is unavailable the next most senior Officer shall interpret the Match Rules in an emergency.
- 1.5 Disciplinary Action :**  
The Management Committee may take Disciplinary action against a player behaving in an unsporting manner during a match
- 1.6 Protests :**  
Protests regarding Disputed Match Rules shall be made in accordance with Clause 13 of the NEHTTA Constitution.

### 2.. **DEFINITIONS :**

- 2.1 Permit Committee :**  
The Results Steward plus a minimum of two other Officers (To be listed in the match programme)
- 2.2 Grading Committee :**  
The Officers
- 2.3 Management Committee :**  
The Officers of the Association and two representatives (“Delegates”) from each Club.  
Life Members may attend Management Meetings but may only vote at Annual and Special General Meetings unless they are an officer or a delegate.
- 2.4 Minor Round Team List :**  
The list of teams and players for the minor round (approved by the Management Committee)
- 2.5 Finals :**  
The top four teams at the end of the minor round play to determine the premier team in each division.
- 2.6 Finals Team List :**  
The list of teams for finals (as issued by the Results Steward).
- 2.7 Forfeit :**  
The penalty imposed for not complying with the Match Rules. When a forfeit occurs the forfeiting player’s matches shall not be counted for finals qualifying and the opposing player/team shall be deemed as winning the forfeited rubbers and/or match by the maximum possible amount.

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### 2.. **DEFINITIONS :** (cont'd)

- 2.8 Permit :**  
Permission to compete for a team (from the Permit Committee).
- 2.9 Handicap Graph :**  
The graph used to determine a player's starting score for a handicap rubber using each player's individual handicap.
- 2.10 Unfinished Match :**  
A match which is unable to be completed for reasons outside the control of the players.  
Section 15.2 deals with scoring of unfinished matches.
- 2.11 New/unknown player:**  
Is a player who has no directly relevant performance data or one who has previous relevant performance data which is unreliable due to its age (typically more than four seasons old) or other factors.

### 3. **TEAMS :**

- 3.1 Winter and Summer Season open Grades :**  
A maximum of (5) five players per team may be submitted for grading before the start of the season.
- 3.2 Handicap Grades :**  
A team shall consist of three players in any order. A maximum of four players may be submitted for a team before the start of the season.
- 3.3 Captain :**  
A team shall be under the control of a Captain appointed by the team's club.
- 3.4 Summer Season Handicap Grades :**  
Each team shall consist of three persons placed in any order.

### 4. **RESTRICTIONS :**

- 4.1 Number of Clubs :**  
A player shall only compete for one NEHTTA club during a season. A team playing a player that has competed for another NEHTTA club during the season shall forfeit the match.
- 4.2** A player shall compete in only one match per weekly round. If a player plays in more than one team in the same week the player shall forfeit every rubber played in the additional team or teams. In the event of ambiguity as to the player's primary team, that decision will be made by a majority vote of the Grading Committee.
- 4.3** No new player (known or unknown) will be allowed to play in the last 3 weeks of minor round matches except in a club's team or teams playing in that club's lowest grade/division.

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### 5. GRADING :

#### 5.1 **Club Duties : Team Submissions :**

A club shall submit teams and a list of players for any grade or division to the Grading Committee before the start of the season (by the date set by the Management Committee)

#### 5.2 **Grading of Players :**

A club shall grade players for their proposed teams using each players winning percentage from the corresponding season of the previous year as a guideline.

WINNING PERCENTAGE

PLAYER GRADING

75% - 100%

up one grade/division from previous year

25 % - 74%

same grade/division as previous year

0 - 24%

down one grade/division from the previous year

A minimum of five matches in one grade/division shall be required to obtain a relevant percentage unless the Grading Committee are in a majority agreement that an immediate handicap adjustment is required. (Forfeit matches shall not be used to determine percentages).

#### 5.3 **Committee Duties : Grading of Players :**

The grading of every player shall be subject to the Grading Committee approval based on relevant data. Only in special circumstances shall approval be given for a player to compete two or more grades/divisions below their correct grading. When a player competes one or more grades/divisions below their correct grading a handicap may be imposed, and handicaps shall apply to doubles as well as singles.

#### 5.4 **Grading for a Handicap Division :**

The Grading Committee shall determine the handicap for every player. A player's handicap shall be continuously reviewed.

#### 5.5 **Grading of Teams :**

The Grading Committee shall form grades/divisions from the teams submitted to produce a competition that is as evenly balanced as possible.

### 6. PLAYERS ON MINOR ROUND TEAM LIST :

#### 6.1 **Competing for a Higher Graded Team :**

A player may compete for any team in a higher grade/division than the one in which they are listed. This shall include different teams in the higher grade/division.

#### 6.2 **Competing for a Lower Graded Team**

A player may compete for any team in a higher grade/division than the one in which they are listed. When a player competes in a lower grade/division without a permit they shall forfeit all their rubbers for the match except in extenuating circumstances when it is not possible to obtain a permit for varying reasons, the player competing in the next lower grade than the one in which they are listed shall do so with a handicap of minus 2. An explanation attached to the match result must be sent to the Score Steward. (Please note rule 5.3 when moving down more than one grade/division.)

#### 6.3 **Competing for Different Teams in the Same Grade/Division**

Once the Minor Round teams and grade/divisions have been approved by the Management Committee, the movement of players between teams in the same grade/division requires a permit from the Permit Committee. If a player competes without a permit for a different team than the one in which they are listed, they shall forfeit all their rubbers for the match. In general, player movements of this nature should be

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avoided as it has the potential to create disharmony with other teams and the Permit Committee will not approve such permits if the player is likely to increase the strength of the team.

### 6. **PLAYERS ON MINOR ROUND TEAM LIST :** (cont'd)

- 6.4 When a player plays more matches in a higher grade/division than originally listed, the player cannot play Finals in a lower grade/division without the Grading Committee approval.

### 7. **PLAYERS NOT ON MINOR ROUND TEAM LIST :**

#### 7.1 **Competing in One Match :**

A player may compete in one match for a club without having to obtain a permit.

Where it is obvious that this player requires a handicap (refer rule 5.3 last sentence) any one member of the Grading Committee may issue one. If no member of the grading committee can be located, an automatic handicap of 2 points per grade played below the players recognised winter grading shall apply. Failure to apply either an approved or automatic handicap shall result in the loss of all matches in which such player played.

#### 7.2 **Competing in More Than One Match :**

Once a player has played in one match for a team, a permit request shall automatically occur for that player in the team in which they have played.

When a player competes in a second match for a club without a Permit they shall forfeit all their rubbers for the match.

Approved and not approved Permits shall be listed as part of the results supplied by the Results Steward.

#### 7.3 **Permit Holders :**

A player who has acquired a permit may compete for any team in a higher grade/division than the one in which they acquired the permit. This shall include different teams in the same higher grade/division.

Once they have played three matches with a particular higher grade team, they can only play for that team on any future occasions that they play in the higher grade.

- 7.4 When a permit player plays more matches in a higher grade/division than the one for which the permit was granted the player cannot play Finals in a lower grade/division without the Grading Committee approval.

- 7.5 Once a player has acquired a permit they shall require another permit from the Permit Committee to move to a different team in the same grade. If a player competes without a permit for a different team than the one in which they acquired the permit, they shall forfeit all their rubbers for the match. In general, player movements of this nature should be avoided as it has the potential to create disharmony with other teams and the Permit Committee will not approve such permits if the player is likely to increase the strength of the team.

### 8. **PERMIT APPLICATIONS :**

- 8.1 For Minor Round Matches, permit applications received after 6pm on the match night may not be approved in time for that match. Rule 7.1 permits the first time use of a unlisted player in a Minor Round Match without a permit to deal with emergency fill-in requirements occurring after 6pm on the match night. A subsequent permit application should be made for a player used in this manner if there is any possibility they will be used again.

- 8.2 Continuation of Permits shall be subject to Management Committee approval at the next Management Committee meeting.

- 8.3 Minor Round permit applications must be submitted to the Results Steward in writing (e.g. email).

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8.4 See also Finals Permits Applications - Section 19.6

### 9. MINOR ROUND MATCHES :

#### 9.1 **Starting Time :**

The starting time for a match shall be 7.30pm. When a team is not ready to start by 7.45pm they shall be fined \$2. When a team is not ready to start by 8.00pm. they shall forfeit the match without the fine. When a player is not ready to start by the second round they shall forfeit all their rubbers for the match except by arrangement with the team captains.

#### 9.2 **Practice :**

When a match is in progress other tables shall not be used for practice.

#### 9.3 **Doubles Rubbers :**

Where there is insufficient playing area , two doubles rubbers shall not be played adjacent to each other. To be noted in match programme.

#### 9.4 **Home Team Duties :**

Venue : The home team shall ensure that the venue is set up prior to the starting time. When the venue is not set up on time, the home team shall be penalised (as stated in 9.1).

Tables : The home team shall provide at least one table for each match.

Balls : The home team shall provide one new or near new ball for each table. Each ball shall be NEHTTA approved and acceptable to each captain. When the home team does not supply an acceptable ball, they shall be penalised as stated in 9.1. When a ball is no longer acceptable for matches it shall be replaced. When a visiting team deliberately breaks a ball they shall provide an acceptable replacement.

### 10. INSUFFICIENT PLAYERS :

#### 10.1 **Minimum Number of Players :**

When a team has less than two players they shall forfeit the match.

#### 10.2 **Competing with Less than a Full Team :**

After a team competes with less than three players in two matches, for a third and subsequent time the club may be asked to withdraw that team from the competition without team fees being refunded.

### 11. WINTER SEASON AND SUMMER SEASON : (Where applicable)

#### 11.1 **Open Grades/Divisions :**

A match shall consist of eleven rubbers (nine singles and two doubles)

The options for competition shall be :

Option 1 - (three players)

Each player in a team shall compete in three singles rubbers and at least one doubles rubber against players in the opposing team. Pair 1 and pair 2 may be formed in any order using the three players in the team.

Option 2 - (four players)

Three players in a team shall compete in three singles rubbers. The fourth player in the team shall not compete in any singles rubbers. The captain may form the two doubles pairs in any order from the four players in the team. (except that pair 1 and pair 2 shall be different)/

Sequence of play -

As per the score sheet subject to variance by agreement of team captains.

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### 11. WINTER SEASON AND SUMMER SEASON : (Where applicable) (cont'd)

#### 11.2 **Handicap Grades :**

A match shall consist of eleven rubbers (nine handicap singles and two handicap doubles). Each game of a rubber shall be to 11 with no advantage. The start given in each game shall be determined from each player's individual handicap and the current NEHTTA handicap graph. Handicap grades doubles - half the combined handicap of each pair. (rounded up)  
The option for competition shall be as stated in rule 11.1.

#### EXPEDITE RULE (adopted 18/8/2011)

11.3 If any match reaches 4 all and there are spare tables available, any executive committee member present **may** use their discretion to instruct teams to play on more than one table in order to expedite the matches in progress. Consideration to be given to players who have just finished a lengthy game and require a short break, consideration also to be given to the programmed matches to be played in order.

11.4 If a match is interrupted for any reason for more than 30 minutes, any person from either team **may** invoke an unfinished match situation which will be dealt with in accordance with the unfinished match rules.

### 12. SUMMER SEASON : (when applicable)

#### 12.1 **Open Divisions :**

A match shall consist of nine rubbers. Each player in a team shall compete in three singles rubbers against players in the opposing team.  
The order of play shall be :

First Round (singles)	1 v 1 2 v 2 3 v 3
Second Round	2 v 1 1 v 3 3 v 2
Third Round	2 v 3 3 v 1 1 v 2

#### 12.2 **Handicap Divisions :**

A match shall consist of nine handicap rubbers (each game shall be to 11 with no advantage). The start given in each game of a rubber shall be determined from each player's individual handicap and the current NEHTTA handicap graph.  
Each player in a team shall compete in three singles matches against players in the opposing team.  
The sequence of play shall be as stated in rule 12.1  
Each player shall have a handicap.

#### 12.3 **Super League Format :**

A team shall consist of two players who each play a singles against the other two players and one doubles. Each rubber is best of 5 advantage games, A match shall consist of 5 rubbers



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### 13. SCORE SHEETS :

A team shall complete a score sheet for every match scheduled (This includes forfeited matches)

#### 13.1 **Before Matches :**

All singles players shall be listed on the scoresheet prior to the start of every match (listing the doubles pairs is optional). Replacements may be made before the end of the first round of singles. Optionally, each doubles pair shall be listed prior to the commencement of each associated doubles match. If both teams use this option, each team shall list its doubles pairs on its scoresheet in private and then exchange details with the opposing team.

#### 13.2 **During Match :**

The umpire for a rubber shall ensure that the correct score for the rubber is entered on the score sheet of each team..

#### 13.3 **After Match :**

The Captain shall ensure that the score sheet is completed correctly and then sign it.

The Captain shall then check and sign the opposing team's score sheet.

Score sheets shall be received by the Results by 5pm on the Monday following the match.

For every late or incomplete score sheet the club shall be fined \$2 (except an incomplete Eonest Simon nomination shall not be penalised the loss of premiership points)

When a team is penalised for a late/incomplete score sheet, the Results Steward shall notify the team's club as soon as possible.

### 14. EONEST SIMON BEST TEAM MEMBER AWARD :

#### 14.1 **Scope :**

The Para Vista Modbury Table Tennis Club, upon disbanding donated a perpetual trophy Named in honour of Eonest Simon a former life member. This trophy shall be awarded to the best Team member for the minor round of the winter season.

The criteria shall be good sporting behaviour and appropriate dress. (match results may be used to decide between equal players).

#### 14.2 **Voting :**

The captain shall choose the player from the opposing team who best fits the criteria.

The captain shall record the player's name and sign the score sheet in the required section.

(This is a secret vote) When the captain decides that no player from the opposing team fits the criteria. NO VOTE shall be recorded, a reason for not voting may be given and the score sheet will be signed in the required section.

When the captain does not complete this section correctly the team's club shall be fined \$1.00.

### 15. PREMIERSHIP TABLE:

#### 15.1 **Match Winner :**

The team that wins the majority of rubbers shall be the match winner. When both teams win the same number of rubbers the team that wins the majority of games shall be the winner.

#### 15.2 **Drawn Match :**

When both teams win the same number of rubbers and the same number of games the match shall be a draw. An unfinished match shall be a draw except when one team has won more than half the total number of rubbers in the match.

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### 15. PREMIERSHIP TABLE: (cont'd)

#### 15.3 **Premiership Table :**

A premiership table shall be issued to all clubs (by the Results Steward) at regular intervals during a season. A teams place shall be determined by the number of matches won followed by rubbers and games.

#### 15.4 **Super League** format points are awarded as follows : Win 3.0 - 5 points

Win 3.1 - 4 points and 1 point for each opponent.

Win 3.2 - 3 points and 2 points for each opponent.

### 16. FINALS - GENERAL:

#### 16.1 **Program :**

The dates and venues for every match shall be listed in the program.

#### 16.2 **Starting Time :**

The starting time for a match to start shall be 7.30pm.

When a team is not ready to start by 7.45pm they shall forfeit the match.

#### 16.3 **Home/Visiting Team :**

The higher ranked team (at the end of the minor round) shall be the home team in finals.

#### 16.4 **Balls :**

The home team shall provide one new ball for each table, each ball shall be NEHTTA approved.

When a ball is no longer acceptable for matches it shall be replaced.

#### 16.5 **Practice :**

When a match is in progress other tables shall not be used for practice.

#### 16.6 **Doubles Rubbers :**

Where there is insufficient playing area , two doubles rubbers shall not be played adjacent to each other.

### 17. COMPOSITION OF FINALS :

#### 17.1 **First Semi Final :**

This final shall be played between the third and fourth placed teams (at the end of the minor round) in each grade/division.

#### 17.2 **Second Semi Final :**

This final shall be played between the first and second placed teams (at the end of the minor round) in each grade/division.

#### 17.3 **Preliminary Final :**

This final shall be played between the winner of the first semi final and the loser of the second semi final in each grade/division.

#### 17.4 **Grand Final :**

This final shall be played between the winner of the second semi final and the winner of the preliminary final in each grade/division.

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### 18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS - FINALS :

#### 18.1 **Number of Matches :**

A player shall compete in a Minimum of five minor round matches to qualify for finals matches.  
A player who has qualified in the minor round by playing less than five matches as a singles player, shall need a permit (and if necessary, a handicap) to play singles in finals.

#### 18.2 **Finals Team List:**

A Finals program listing the finals teams will be issued to all clubs by the Results Steward.  
It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that the players in its Finals teams are qualified to participate in the Finals matches. An unqualified player will forfeit all their rubbers in the match.

### 19. TEAM OPTIONS - FINALS :

#### 19.1 **Players listed in a Team :**

A team may compete with any of these players.

#### 19.2 **Players from a Lower Grade/Division :**

In all grades/divisions, a team must apply for a permit to compete with a qualified player from a lower grade/division when they cannot fill the team from their listed players. A permit will only be granted where the player is of equal or lesser standard than the player requiring the substitution.

If a club has more than one team in its lowest grade, qualified players from these teams may be treated as lower grade/division players provided these teams are no longer participating in the Final.

#### 19.3 **Players from a higher Grade/Division :**

A team shall only compete with qualified players from their grade/division or a lower grade/division.  
When a team competes with a player from a higher grade/division they shall forfeit the match.

#### 19.4 **Players who are Unqualified :**

A team shall only compete with players who have qualified for finals (except a club's lowest Grade team which can apply for a limit of two permits for unqualified players per team .

Permits will only be granted if it can be established that the replacement player(s) are of equal or lower standard than the players being replaced.

When a team competes with a player who is unqualified or not approved under this rule then they shall forfeit the match.

#### 19.6 **Finals Permit Applications :**

Wherever possible, player permit applications should be made as soon as the need arises and in writing (email) to give the Permit Committee adequate time to process the application and to give the applicant time to pursue alternatives if the permit application is rejected.

In recognition of the importance that players and clubs attribute to Finals matches, and to accommodate emergency situations, permits can be verbally requested and approved by the Permit Committee up to the starting time of the match provided the equal or lesser standard criteria (Ref 19.2) can be met.

### 20. ORDER OF PLAY - FINALS

#### 20.1 **Three Player Team :**

The order of play shall be as listed on the score sheet.

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**21. MATCH RESULTS - FINALS**

**21.1 Match Conclusion :**

When a match winner has been determined, any unplayed rubbers shall not be started and any rubber in progress shall stop.

**21.2 Drawn Match :**

(First /Second semi finals, Preliminary finals) When a match is drawn, the match shall be replayed on the following Friday and if required on the following Monday.

When a Grand Final match is drawn, the match shall be replayed on the following Wednesday, and if required, on the following Friday.

**22. SUPER LEAGUE FORMAT FINALS :**

**23. AMENDED ITTF REGULATIONS:**

General, Continuity of Play, Match, Scoring, Clothing, Behaviour of Players, Playing, Equipment and Advice to Players.