

# NATIONAL COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS AND COMPETITION RULES

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## I. MEMBERSHIP

Application for membership shall be open to any University and their affiliated varsity or club sport team that supports the NCTTA purpose statement. Continuing membership is contingent upon the membership guidelines outlined in this section.

Only one institutionally recognized official campus student group or club will be accepted for membership by the NCTTA. For institutions that have both a Varsity Table Tennis Program and a Table Tennis Club Sports Program, NCTTA will evaluate membership on a case by case basis.

Membership is handled on a yearly basis with membership benefits taking effect upon fulfillment of the Membership Requirements and continuing until June 30.

**1) Who Can Be a Member?** Any college or university that has an active and SCHOOL AFFILIATED table tennis club or student organization or Varsity Table Tennis team is eligible to join NCTTA.

### **2) Membership Requirements**

Official NCTTA membership is obtained once:

- a) The school's table tennis club president has signed the NCTTA membership agreement;
- b) The school pays the annual membership fee (see Membership Fees below).
- c) The club/team fills out the school information form and turns it in to NCTTA. Contact information includes: (phone number, e-mail and mailing addresses) for at least 3 student executives, the campus recreational director, club sports director, athletic director and any school officials responsible for the operations and funding of that particular club or team.

NCTTA reserves the rights to ask members to post our sponsors' banners and/or links on their club websites if that does not conflict with their institutional policies. Some catalogues and advertisements may be sent to members and/or school officials unless NCTTA is specifically notified not to do so.

### **3) Membership Status**

- a) **Active/Full:** Has completed all the membership requirements described in item (2) and participated in NCTTA competition.
- b) **Inactive:** Has completed all the membership requirements in item (2) above, but opted not to participate in NCTTA competition this year/season.
- c) **Transitional:** Is in the process of joining or rejoining NCTTA for one of the following reasons:
  - i) Is not a part of any geographical NCTTA division
  - ii) Has joined a division which has already completed competition for the Fall Semester (can apply to a one-time NCTTA member school coming into an already established division after a semester or more hiatus).
  - iii) Has joined a *transitional division* as described in Section V.3.

- d) **Probationary:** Schools that don't pay their membership fees will be placed on probation for any subsequent seasons and the players that represented their school during the delinquent season will be banned from any NCTTA competition until fee is paid.

#### 4) Membership Fees

- a) Active/Full Membership: \$100.00
- b) New NCTTA School Membership: \$50.00
- c) Women's Team Membership: \$50.00
- d) Schools that have just an active women's team, but not an active men's/coed team are eligible for the Women's Team membership rate.
- e) Transitional Membership: \$25.00
- f) NCTTA will discount Active/Full Members having both an active men's/coed team AND an active women's team. Such schools are eligible to pay a single \$75.00 fee to cover membership for both teams. The women's team must play both semesters to be eligible for this discount.

## II. ELIGIBILITY

### 1) Academic Enrollment

All student athletes need to be enrolled as a minimum *half time* and *making progress toward a degree*.

- a) Undergraduate students must be enrolled in a min. of 6 credit hours per semester and 12 credit hours per academic year (fall, spring, and summer).
- b) Graduate students must be enrolled in a min. of 4 credit hours per semester and 8 credit hours per academic year (fall, spring, summer)
- c) The student/athlete has to maintain an institutional cumulative grade point average (GPA) of min. 2.0 on a 4.0 maximum scale for undergraduate students or a 3.0 on a 4.0 maximum scale for graduate students or be in *good standing*.

**Definition: *Good Standing*.** To be eligible to represent an institution intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete shall be in good academic standing as determined by the academic authorities who determine the meaning of such phrases for all students of the institution (NCAA, 2005, p. 127).

**Definition: *Half Time*.** To be considered half time in an institution in intercollegiate athletic competition, a student-athlete shall be considered half time as determined by the academic authorities who determine the meaning of such phrases for all students of the institution.

**Definition: *Progress toward degree*** is to be interpreted at each member institution by the academic officials who determine the meaning and application of such phrases for all students, subject to the controlling regulations of the institution; the division(s) (or similar associations).

### 2) Proof of Eligibility

Proof of student athlete eligibility status should be sent to NCTTA officials (either the Registrar or Division director) prior to competing in any NCTTA tournaments that semester. The following conditions apply:

- a) An exception to the minimum enrollment requirement is permitted if a student participant is graduating by the end of that semester: he or she must take and complete the number of hours required to complete the degree.
- b) An exception to the GPA requirement is permitted if a student is enrolling at an institution for the first time and his or her GPA cannot yet be calculated.
- c) Certification of eligibility status must come from the registrar of the school where the student is enrolled.

**3) Quarter Institutions.** A student-athlete who attends a quarter-system institution and who graduates at the end of the winter quarter may compete in an NCTTA championship or a National Invitation Tournament that occurs during the same academic year following the completion of the winter quarter.

**4) Nontraditional Academic Calendars or Cooperative Education Programs.** A student-athlete in an institution, that determines enrollment hours on a basis other than traditional semester or quarter hours or that conducts a cooperative educational program, may compete, if at the time of competition the student is enrolled for a comparable minimum academic load.

**5) Noncredit Work.** Hours of noncredit work (including remedial courses) may be counted toward fulfilling the minimum half-time enrollment requirement, provided the noncredit work is given the same academic load value and is considered by the institution to be a requirement for the degree currently being pursued by the student.

**6) Concurrent Courses at Two Institutions.** Courses taken concurrently at a second institution may be counted toward meeting the minimum enrollment requirement, provided:

- a) The certifying institution officially recognizes the student's combined hours as part of the minimum enrollment.
- b) Cross Registered or Dual Enrolled students may participate for their primary institution ONLY.

**7) Correspondence Courses.** A student-athlete may not use a *correspondence course* to meet the minimum enrollment requirement.

**Definition:** *Correspondence Courses* are courses taken while on academic dismissal.

### **8) Nontraditional Courses**

Courses taught via the Internet, distance learning, independent study, individualized instruction, and courses taught by similar means may be used to satisfy NCTTA credit hour requirements provided that:

- a) Evaluation of the student's work is conducted by the appropriate academic authorities in accordance with the school's established academic policies; and

- b) Is making progress in the degree of choice and is reflected on the certifying institution's transcript.

### **9) Temporary Students**

A student-athlete having the status of temporary, transient or exchange student shall not represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition unless such status is specifically allowed and governed by provisions adopted by the membership.

### **10) Length of Eligibility**

An NCTTA player may compete in NCTTA competitions for a maximum of four (4) years. This rule change applies to players who first competed in the 2007-2008 NCTTA season.

### **11) NCTTA Championship Following Last Term of Eligibility**

A student-athlete who is eligible during the term in which degree work is completed remains eligible for any NCTTA Championship or National Invitation Tournament that begins within 60 days after the end of the term in which the student completes the requirements for the degree (or graduate eligibility).

### **12) Participation in International Collegiate Events**

Participation in world events falls under the purview of the International University Sports Federation (FISU). The following is an excerpt from the FISU regulations:

#### 5.2 Participation

5.2.1 Only the following may participate as competitors in a FISU sporting event:

- a) Students who are officially registered for and pursuing a full time course of study at a university or similar institute whose status as a university is recognized by the appropriate national academic authority of their country;
- b) Former students of the institutions mentioned in a) who have obtained their academic degree or diploma in the year preceding the event.

5.2.3 All competitors must satisfy the following conditions:

- a) be a national of the country they represent;
- b) be at least 17 and less than 28 years of age on January 1st in the year of the event; for the 2004 World University Championship = born between Jan. 1st 1976 and 31 Dec. 1986.

Tryouts for the US College National team will be decided from year to year in coordination with the sport's governing body, USA Table Tennis.

Whenever possible, this US College Table Tennis Team will represent the country at the World University Championships (WUC), the World University Games (WAG), the Universiade or other international collegiate competitions.

### **III. COMPETITION RULES**

#### **1) Laws of Table Tennis:**

NCTTA will follow USATT rules, <http://www.usatt.org/rules> with the exception of Team Match play which will be governed by NCTTA rules as described in Section IV Team Regulations.

#### **2) Uniforms**

Team uniforms are **required** to be worn at all NCTTA regional meets. Team uniforms are **required** at the NCTTA National Championships and may be a team shirt, shirt with the school logo, or shirts of the same design or color.

#### **3) Equipment**

- a) NCTTA will supply balls for all NCTTA competitions.
- b) Equipment used at NCTTA competitions will conform to USATT/ITTF regulations.

#### **4) Officials**

The division director designates (e.g. the best neutral party or person) to serve as the referee for a particular meet. The referee will enforce all rules and make final decisions at meets. It is preferred that the referee be certified by the ITTF, USATT, or another member association of the ITTF.

#### **5) Rule Violations**

- a) Any player or school who would like to report violations of playing rules and regulations must do so within 48 hours of the violation otherwise the point/game/match result will stand as is.
- b) NCTTA rules violations should be reported to the Audit/Discipline Committee. Possible penalties for breaking rules include, but are not limited to:
  - i) Loss of match
  - ii) Exclusion from the Championships
  - iii) Suspended or revoked NCTTA membership

#### **6) Appealing Decisions**

- a) The Audit/Discipline Committee's decision on a particular violation of the rules can be appealed to the Executive Board in writing by contacting the NCTTA President.
- b) The Executive Board will meet to discuss the matter and either agree with the findings of the Audit/Discipline Committee or overturn the findings. All decisions by the Executive Board are FINAL.

## **IV. TEAM REGULATIONS**

### **1) Team Requirements**

To be eligible for participation in NCTTA competitions and to be considered an **official team**, a team must be associated with an NCTTA member school that has:

- a) Fulfilled all of the membership requirements as described in Section I, and
- b) Submitted an academic eligibility form for its athletes that proves they are eligible to compete as described in Section II.

Transitional NCTTA members that satisfy these requirements will be considered official teams; however, transitional schools cannot qualify teams to the Championships.

### **2) Varsity Teams**

Each school has one official competing team or varsity team. Each school may also field a varsity competing Women's team (consisting entirely of women) in NCTTA competitions.

### **3) Junior Varsity Teams**

Schools may field extra scrimmage teams (junior varsity teams or junior varsity women's teams) to give more club members an opportunity to compete. Scheduling of the scrimmage junior varsity matches is at the discretion of the division director. The results of matches between junior varsity teams are unofficial and will not count in division standings, but individual match results will still count for individual ratings.

**4) Rosters:** The roster, a list of all potential competitors on a team, must have a minimum of 4 players with 8 as a maximum. Only those players listed on the roster are eligible to compete in the meet. The roster should be ordered though not necessarily by ability. The order of this roster will be followed for all matches in that meet. See Roster Example below.

- a) Each school must submit an ordered roster to the division director by the beginning of each NCTTA competition.
- b) Roster changes between meets are permitted up until the time a roster is submitted for a meet. Roster changes during a meet are not allowed.
- c) Should a team be missing a player and go down to three players; the number 4 singles and the doubles will be forfeited in regional play.
- d) Two teams with three players each will play 3 singles matches to determine a winner (best of 3, instead of best of 5).
- e) 2 and 1 player "teams" will NOT be permitted to compete.
- f) Female players can be included on the rosters for both Coed and Women's teams. However, if both teams are scheduled to play within the same time period such players can only be included in the match lineup for one of the matches. In other words they must choose which team match to participate in. No match will be held up unnecessarily.

### **5) Roster Example**

Team Loopers - Meet 1 Roster

1. Player A

2. Player B
3. Player C
4. Player D
5. Player E
6. Player F
7. Player G
8. Player H

#### Sample Playing Order for Team Matches Based on Competition Roster

Match 1	Match 2	Match 3
1. Player A	1. Player B	1. Player A
2. Player B	2. Player D	2. Player C
3. Player C	3. Player F	3. Player D
4. Player D	4. Player H	4. Player G

#### 6) Doubles Matches

- a) In a doubles match that will decide the winner of a team tie (i.e. a doubles match played when the score is 2-2), the player who played in the #1 singles position **in that particular team tie** must be a part of the doubles team.
- b) If a player that is scheduled to play doubles according to the match lineup is injured and unable to play in the doubles match, the team can select a substitute player from the match lineup. This substitute selection must be made by the end of the singles matches, or the team will forfeit the doubles match.

## V. COMPETITION FORMAT

### 1) Team Matches (Ties)

- a) Team matches (ties) consist of 4 singles matches and 1 doubles match.
- b) All individual matches will be played out, even if the outcome of the team tie is already determined. For example, a team has already won 3 singles matches, if they were to lose the other two matches, they would win 3-2 instead of 3-0. These matches are relevant for tie-breakers.
- c) Individual matches are best of 5 games to 11 points.
- d) There is a grace period of fifteen minutes before the first match of an NCTTA competition before a default is recorded. For any other match in the same competition the grace period is five minutes before the match will automatically be awarded to the player/team ready to compete. If neither opponent arrives on time for the match, a double default will be recorded.
- e) Meet and division winners will be computed using the following point system. Teams will be awarded:
  - i) 2 points for a winning a tie
  - ii) 1 point for a non-default loss
  - iii) 0 points for a default loss

Women's teams will only earn match points for wins against other women's teams from the same division. Note that team match points as described here are

- not the same as individual rating points. Individual rating points can be earned regardless of whether a team tie counts for division match points.
- f) Tie-breaking procedure: ITTF tie-breaking procedures (as described in Section 3.7.5 of the ITTF Regulations) will be used to determine winners among teams with the same number of match points.

## **2) Schedule**

- a) NCTTA competition season officially starts at October 1st and ends 6 weeks before the NCTTA championship in the following year.
- b) Every school must play every other school in its division at least twice during the season. Every team must play each other at least once before December 31st.
- c) Competition can be held in several small meets over the course of a season or in large meets or a combination of both.
- d) The division director must announce the meet schedule for the entire season by September 15th. In order to create a schedule that can accommodate most every school's needs, it is imperative that each school/club president cooperates with his/her division director. Otherwise, the schedule will be made without consideration of that school's availability. Nevertheless, the school will still be bound, by the membership agreement, to compete.
- e) Schools can request to reschedule a meet or their team matches for the following reasons:
  - i) Severe weather
  - ii) Transportation issues (car breaks down, flight delayed, got in an accident, etc.)
  - iii) Sudden death or illness, preventing the school from fielding a team
- f) If a school fails to notify the division director at least 5 days in advance of a scheduled meet, then it will be defaulted from all of their matches in that meet. If the 4th school in a four school division defaults in this manner, the division is required to find another school to replace the defaulted school or risk being decertified as an NCTTA division.
- g) If a school joins a division mid-season, the division director may accommodate them in the schedule, assuming they have satisfied the NCTTA membership requirements (see Section I, Membership).
- h) At divisional meets, women's and co-ed events should receive fair and adequate time allotments (based on the number of participants). It is expected that division directors incorporate women's teams into the competition schedule just like other varsity teams.

## **3) Divisions**

For the purposes of NCTTA competition, NCTTA member schools are assigned to *divisions*:

- a) Divisions are arranged geographically. If a school does not conveniently fit into an already existing division, the executive board may create a new division. The executive board reserves the right to assign schools to each division based primarily, but not exclusively, on closest distance.
- b) A minimum of four official teams from four schools is required in each division.

- c) One or more women's teams in an existing division (satisfying the other requirements of this section) are required to form a women's division.
- d) In order to qualify representatives to the NCTTA Championships a division must comply with the meet scheduling guidelines outlined above.
- e) Any division with 10 or more teams is recommended to conduct its competitions as follows, or in another format approved by the NCTTA Rules Committee:
  - i) Teams should be grouped into *subdivisions* of as equal size as is possible, based on geographic proximity or other reasonable criteria.
  - ii) Each subdivision will conduct League meets according to NCTTA division rules. Each team in a subdivision will play each other at least twice during the season and at least once before December 31.
  - iii) The champion and runner-up from each subdivision (4 teams in all) will meet in a special Division Championship at the end of the season to determine the overall champion and runner-up for the division. The results of this Division Championship will be used for determining direct qualifiers for the Championships.
  - iv) The Division Director may appoint an Assistant Division Director to assist with coordinating competitions for a subdivision.
- f) **Transitional Divisions:** Any division that does not have the minimum number of schools (3(b) above) at the start of the season, or fails to maintain this minimum over the course of the competition season will be considered a transitional division. Transitional divisions function much like regular divisions, with the following exceptions:
  - i) Results and standings from league matches will not be counted officially.
  - ii) Transitional divisions cannot qualify teams to the Championships.

## **VI. CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS** (Qualifications, Registration and Rules)

SEE NCTTA CHAMPIONSHIPS REGULATIONS