



## Rules for Season 2005/2006

### General.

1. Unless stated otherwise all competitive play will be played in accordance with ETTU and ITTF rules and regulations.
2. All league matches and tournaments may be subject to MTTA supervision but any appeals or protests must be sent by registered mail together with a protest fee of Lm 5 to the secretary of the MTTA at P.O.Box 133, Valletta, within 48 hours of the incident in question.
3. In the event of disputes the decision of the MTTA committee will be final.
4. In the event that a protest has been judged by the committee to be correct, the MTTA will refund the Lm5 protest fee to the player or club voicing the protest.
5. Only playing equipment, authorised for use by the ITTF, may be used.
6. Any suspected infringement relating to the use of playing equipment should be reported to the MTTA, in writing, which will then decide on what action to take. This action may include, but not be limited to, imposing a fine, forcing an encounter to be replayed, deduction of ranking points or expulsion.
7. With the exception of any specially organised international tournaments or events, any MTTA endorsed events will be "closed" events, where participating players must be fully paid-up members of the MTTA.
8. For the season 2005/2006, **White** 40mm\*\*\* Joola balls shall be used for league matches.
9. The MTTA has the right to ban the participation in any MTTA event, on a permanent or temporary basis, any player, club or team, which has not paid any due funds for MTTA or league and individual membership.
10. Doping is prohibited, doping being the use of any banned substance as specified in the list published by the International Olympic Committee. ETTU regulations will be in force and doping controls may be carried out, without notice, on any day of competition.

## League Rules for The Malta National Table Tennis League.

- 1) Matches shall be played in accordance with ETTU and ITTF rules and regulations and in accordance with MTTA regulations.
- 2) Clubs may consist of one or more teams. Clubs with several teams must name those teams A, B, C, etc, although the names of the individual teams can also incorporate the name of the same or different sponsors. However, if any of their other teams gain promotion to the first division, the team name/s must be changed so as to appear separate. Furthermore, a club with several teams but with only one team in the first division, must always name their first division team the 'A' team.
- 3) Clubs may register as many players as they like for each team, but there must be a minimum of three (3) players registered per team.
- 4) To be eligible to play for a team in the league a player must be (A) Be a fully paid-up individual member of the MTTA, and also, (B) Be a Maltese National or be in possession of a current Maltese I.D. card, a valid work permit, a freedom of movement certificate, a residency permit or a certificate of exemption. As long as these conditions are met there is no limitation on the number of foreign players a team may 'field'.
- 5) A player must be registered with the MTTA to play for a team for 48 hours before he/she is eligible to play in the league. However there can be no new player registrations for league participation after the 31st of January 2006.
- 6) Players may transfer from one team to another, at any time during the season, as long as (A) they have not played previously in the league or (B) the team to which they are transferring to is in a different division, and (C) in all cases the team releasing them give their written consent. Having said this only one move per season is allowed per player. Also if the player concerned has already played in a league match, the player registration fee has to be paid again for the new team player registration and there must be a gap of one complete week before the player can play for his/her new team, (he/she cannot play for one team one week then another team the following week, so as to allow for administration changes). No player can transfer after the 31st december 2005.
- 7) All league matches shall be played either Monday or Friday evenings, or unless otherwise instructed by the MTTA.
- 8) The venue for league matches shall be The University Gymnasium, Spinella Street, Gzira.
- 9) It will be the responsibility of the players representing the teams concerned to **erect and dismantle** table and other equipment linked to their encounter.
- 10) Postponements of matches are **NOT ALLOWED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES**. It is the duty of each club to have adequate reserve players in the teams taking part in the league or they must field whatever players they can.
- 11) Three points (3) are to be awarded for a league win, one point (1) for a loss and zero points (0) when a team gives a walkover.
- 12) Promotion, relegation, honours will be decided by the number of league points scored. In the case of a tie sets will be counted, if there is still a tie a play-off match will be played.

13) A team giving away a walkover will be subject to a fine of Five Maltese Liri (Lm5.00). A team who gives three consecutive walkovers will be scratched from the league and given a further fine of twenty-five Maltese Liri (Lm25.00). The individual players of the team will be held responsible.

14) The First Division will consist of eight (8) teams; and will be contested over two rounds. The team finishing in bottom place in the First Division will be relegated to Division II. The team placed seventh will contest a play-off with the runner-up of Division II, for a place in Division I the following season.

Division II, will also consist of eight (8) teams; and be contested over two rounds. The team finishing in first place will be promoted to Division 1 the next season. The team finishing in second place will contest a play-off with the seventh placed team of division 1 to see which team is in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division next season. The team finishing in bottom place in the Second Division will be relegated to Division III. The team placed seventh will contest a play-off with the runner-up of the division III for a place in division II the following season.

Division III will consist of seven (7) teams; and be contested over two rounds. The team finishing top will be promoted to Division 2 the following season. The team finishing second will contest a play-off with the seventh placed team in Division 2 to see who is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division next season. The team placed sixth will contest a play-off with the runner-up of the division IV for a place in division III the following season.

Division IV will consist of five (5) teams and will be contested over three rounds. The team finishing top will be promoted to Division III the team finishing runner up will play a play-off with the team finishing sixth in Division III to decide who will play in Division III the following season.

### **Match Rules. (Malta National T.T.League).**

Matches will be played as in the following system:

- A. Each match shall consist of scheduled nine (9) singles sets. The three nominated singles players of one team will all play the three nominated players of the other, making the nine singles sets.
- B. In any league match, a team shall normally consist of three (3) players, but can contain a minimum of one (1) player. Teams that 'field' less than the normal three (3) will forfeit the sets not played by the absent player/players.
- C. The sets will comprise of the best of five (5) games. Using the ITTF 11 point system.
- D. The order of play shall be as follows:

A Vs X  
B Vs Y  
C Vs Z  
B Vs X  
A Vs Z  
C Vs Y  
B Vs Z  
C Vs X  
A Vs Y (see new score sheet)

- E. Any change to this order of play must be (A) with the FULL agreement of both teams, (B)

PRIOR to the commencement of the match and (C) only when the three single players of a team, asking for any change, have been nominated. It is **NOT** permissible for a team to make prior arrangements with their opponents, for a different schedule of play, whilst keeping their players anonymous.

- F. Matches are scheduled to commence at 7.15pm with the usual fifteen (15) minutes 'grace' period. This means that at 7.30pm (latest) at least one player from a team must be present and ready to play. If it is in fact the case that only one player from a team is present at 7.30pm, then he/she must be scheduled to play 1 or Y so that the match may start. Should a team fail to have at least one player at the appropriate venue and ready to commence play at the stipulated time, the opposing side will be awarded a nine (9) sets to zero (0) walkover. Both teams detailing the players must complete the score sheet for the match involved in the encounter and the order of play, PRIOR to the commencement of the match. Once players have been scheduled on the score sheet, the score sheet may not be altered without the full agreement of both teams, or as per rule 3.
- G. Any match where play has not commenced by 7.30pm will be deemed either (A) as a walkover to one of the teams concerned, supported by a completed score sheet or (B) to be NULL and VOID. **IT IS NOT PERMISSIBLE FOR THE TWO TEAMS TO JUST AGREE TO START LATE**, we do not have the time for this. MTTA committee members will make sure that this rule is adhered to.
- H. At any time after 9.00 pm a MTTA committee member may invoke the following rule. If any match appears to be running late and may not finish early enough to pack-up and vacate the premises in time. Providing that there are spare tables available, then teams must agree to play any remaining sets on more than one table. A player cannot refuse to do this on any grounds. In the event that the premises have to be vacated, and the match is unfinished, any remaining sets will be deemed "null and void".
- I. After the end of the initial grace period (7.30pm) all players must be ready to play his, her set, when it is scheduled. There are no further 'grace' periods. Should the late player/s miss their turn in the schedule of play, the set is awarded as a walkover to the opponent. The match then proceeds to the next scheduled encounter. A late player may contend any sets that he/she is still in time to play, but once a set has been awarded to an opponent as a walkover, it may NOT be rescheduled. Should both players in an encounter not be present, the set is to be marked on the score sheet as Null and Void. The match then proceeds, where it can, following the order of play.
- J. All possible sets must be played.
- K. The warming up time before each set is limited to two (2) minutes. The time allowed for changing between games is one (1) minute. Towels can only be used after each six points, or at change of ends. Once a set commences a player cannot change the bat he/she is playing with, which must be in full view of the umpire at all times, unless it is irreparably damaged.
- L. It is the responsibility of the **Home Team** captain to ensure that the match score sheet is completed properly, signed by both team captains and forwarded to the League Organiser. **A collection box will be provided for this purpose**, at each and every match night. The League Organiser is: Mr. Paul Dawson. 140A, St. Julian's Road, San Gwann, SGN09, Malta. Fax: Malta 23331128, Email: pdawson@waldonet.net.mt
- M. In the event of a walkover the team claiming the walkover must still complete score Sheet. If for some reason a score sheet is missing, the league organiser will contact a member of the home team concerned and then, in the event that the score sheet cannot be found within 5 days, the match will be marked as NULL AND VOID for both league and ranking purposes.
- N. The playing apparel of the teams must comply with ITTF regulations. Since white balls will be used, shirts & shorts must **not** be **WHITE** in colour or **so light in colour** as to affect the opponents play, and all players in any one team **must** wear identical shirts when

competing on table. Failure in this will result in walkovers being awarded for up to 6 sets in any given match where the three players in a team are not in compliance.

- O. The official ball being a White JOOLA 40mm\*\*\* ball, two balls will be provided to each team by the MTTA, further balls may be purchased from any local Sports shop or the MTTA on request.

### **Player Ranking.**

As in previous seasons a player ranking system will be in force.

**To take part in any of the Senior or Junior ranking events a player must be a MTTA member, therefore any player who is not a MTTA member will not be part of any ranking system.**

The starting positions of the 2005/2006 senior ranking list will be based on the positions of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ranking List of the 2004/5 season. Not the final ranking list of the 2004/5 season as this was deemed to be unfair to some players due to the extra matches played by the division III teams towards the end of the season.

All league matches and any play-off matches will count towards player ranking.

### **Tournaments.**

Various tournaments will be held throughout the season, there will be at least three ranking tournaments, and therefore will be run as per ranking regulations, others will be conducted as per terms and regulations specified at the time of invitation.

This year will also see the introduction of a new Ranking League / Tournament called a "Team Grand Prix". Full details available on request.

### **Nationals.**

It has also been decided that in 2006 the Malta National Closed championships will again be a ranking tournament. To compensate foreign and female players who would not qualify to play in all or some of the events, their individual ranking position before the National's will be maintained by awarding points in their favour. For example if a foreign player is in fourth position prior to the National's he/she would be awarded points after the National's so that he/she is still in fourth position.

### **Junior Ranking.**

There will again be a Cadet (under 15) Ranking List and a Junior (under 18) ranking list. These ranking lists run separately to the master-ranking list and are based on Cadet and Junior ranking tournament results held throughout the season. The starting ranking lists for these categories for season 2005/6 will be based on the final ranking lists of the 2004/5 season. Points calculation will now be as the master ranking system. I. E. a 10% or 5% of points being awarded to the winner of any confrontation depending on whether the higher or lower ranked player won.