



## Rules for Season 2009/2010

### 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 Euro 11.50 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 Euro 11.50 protest fee to the player or club voicing the protest.
5. Only playing equipment, authorised for use by the ITTF, may be used.
6. As the ITTF have now removed all approvals for table tennis glues as well as forbidding the use of any substance containing VOC's (volatile compounds). Rackets will be inspected and tested by the MTTA and will be confiscated for the event concerned if found to fail any requirements as laid down by the ITTF. Furthermore, as the use of any glue is at the sole responsibility of the individual concerned, the MTTA forbids the use of any sort of glue in any part of the University Gym premises at any time, (training or competition), and will expell anyone trying to do so.
7. 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.
8. With the exception of under 13 events and 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.
9. For this season White 40mm\*\*\* Joola balls shall be used for league matches.
10. 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.
11. 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) Unless stated otherwise matches shall be played in accordance with ETTU and ITTF rules and regulations and always in accordance with MTTA regulations.
- 2) A single team can register to play without being affiliated to a club. However the secretary of the club or captain of a team is responsible for the payment of all fees and possible fines that are incurred by the club/team that he/she has committed to represent.
- 3) 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 are in the first division or 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.
- 4) Clubs or teams may register as many players as they like for each team, but there must be a minimum of three (3) players registered per team.
- 5) 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'.
- 6) A player must be registered with the MTTA to play for a team for 72 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 2010.
- 7) Players may transfer from one team to another 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 higher division and the player concerned is a junior, (under 18 as stipulated by year of birth in the current MTTA season), (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, such registrations must be completed at least 72 hours before he/she can play for their new team. No player can transfer after the 31st January 2010.
- 8) All league matches shall be played either Monday or Friday evenings, or unless otherwise instructed by the MTTA.
- 9) The venue for league matches shall be The University Gymnasium, Spinella Street, Gzira or any premises approved by the MTTA for use.
- 10) It will be the responsibility of the players representing the teams concerned to erect and dismantle the table and other equipment linked to their encounter. Both home and away team.
- 11) Three points (3) will to be awarded for a league win, one point (1) for a loss and two points (-2) will be deducted when a team gives a walkover. (A team walkover being when not even one player of a team attends to play just one opponent).
- 12) Promotion, relegation, honours will be decided by the number of league points scored. In the case of a tie sets will be counted, the team having won the most sets would be deemed the higher placed team, if there is still a tie a play-off match will be played.

- 13) Teams/Clubs cannot postpone matches UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. By a majority vote of the MTTA executive committee the MTTA can postpone matches in the unlikely event that matches have clashed with a players' MTTA, ITTF, MOC or ETTU duties. Although every effort would be made to ensure this does not happen. It is the duty of each club to have adequate reserve players or they must field whatever players they can. It is **permissible** to play a match in advance providing a). both teams agree, b). Permission is given by the league organiser prior to the match taking place and c). the match is played at an approved MTTA venue. Once such a change in schedule has been approved by the League Organiser this new date of play is official and cannot be changed again without all the above conditions again being met. Failure of a team to attend a re-scheduled match as approved by the League Organiser will result in that team awarding a walkover and all that that implies. Failure to obtain permission from the league organiser in advance would render any such match null and void. The organisers have the right to refuse a request to play a scheduled league match earlier if it considered by the organisers to create an unfair advantage in some way, be detrimental to the league or cause a clash with another event.
- 14) A team giving away a team walkover will be subject to a fine of Euro 57.50. A team who gives three consecutive walkovers will be scratched from the league and given a further fine of Euro 115.00. Initially the team captain / manager, followed by the individual players of the team, will be held responsible for payment of such fines, furthermore all fines will have to be settled before the team or its players can resume play in any MTTA event.
- 15) The First Division will consist of eight (8) teams; and will be contested over two rounds. The team finishing in eighth place will be relegated, the team finishing in seventh place in the First Division will contest a play-off with the runner-up of Division II, for a place in Division I the following season.

Division II, will consist of eight (8) teams; and be contested over two rounds. The team finishing in first place will be promoted to Division I the next season. The team finishing in second place will contest a play-off with the seventh placed team of division I 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 the remaining teams; and will 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.

**RULE 15 IS SUBJECT TO THE AMOUNT OF TEAMS ENTERING THE LEAGUE  
AND THE MTTA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND ACCORDINGLY.**

**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:

1st A Vs X, 2nd B Vs Y, 3rd C Vs Z  
4th B Vs X, 5th A Vs Z, 6th C Vs Y  
7th B Vs Z, 8th C Vs X, 9th A Vs Y  
(see 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 7.30pm with the usual fifteen (15) minutes 'grace' period. This means that at 7.45pm (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 7.45pm, then he/she must be scheduled to play A or X 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 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.
- G. Any match where play has not commenced by 7.45pm 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 (7.45pm) 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 continues, 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: mttatournaments@gmail.com
- 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.
- P. If the two opposing teams 'field' only two players each and after the four possible sets have been played the match score is tied, then a doubles set is to be played to settle the match.

## Player Ranking.

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

To take part in the Senior, Under 18 or Under 15 ranking events a player must be a MTTA member, therefore any player who is not a MTTA member will not be part of these ranking systems.

The starting positions of the 2009/2010 senior ranking list will be based on the positions of the Final Ranking List of the 2008/9 season. Any Non-Mtta members will be removed.

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, (in fact far more are planned for this season), 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 continuation of the popular tournament called the “Team Grand Prix”, which is also a ranking tournament.

## Nationals.

As last year senior and junior national championships will be run separately.

The 2010 Malta National Closed championships will again be ranking tournaments. To compensate any 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 13) Ranking List, a Junior (under 15) ranking list and a Under 18. These ranking lists run separately to the senior-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 2009/10 will be based on the final ranking lists of the 2008/9 season where applicable.

**NOTE: UNDER 13 RANKING EVENTS ARE TO BE OPEN, PLAYERS DO NOT HAVE TO BE MTTA MEMBERS TO TAKE PART.**

