



# **Rules and Regulations**

**of College Table Tennis**

**2010-2011 Competition Season**

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1	Who can be a member?	4
1.2	Membership Requirements	4
1.3	Membership Status	4
1.4	Membership Fees	5
<b>2</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Academic Enrollment	5
2.2	Proof of Eligibility	6
2.3	Quarter Institutions	6
2.4	Nontraditional Academic Calendars or Cooperative Education Programs	7
2.5	Noncredit Work	7
2.6	Concurrent Courses at Two Institutions	7
2.7	Correspondence Courses	7
2.8	Nontraditional Courses	7
2.9	Temporary Students	7
2.10	Length of Eligibility	8
2.11	NCTTA Championship Following Last Term of Eligibility	8
2.12	Participation in International Collegiate Events	8
<b>3</b>	<b>Competition Rules</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1	Laws of Table Tennis	8
3.2	Uniforms	9
3.3	Equipment	9
3.4	Officials	9
3.5	Rule Violations	9
3.6	Appealing Decisions	9
<b>4</b>	<b>Team Regulations</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1	Team Requirements	9
4.2	Varsity Teams	10
4.3	Junior Varsity Teams	10
4.4	Rosters	10
4.5	Roster Example	11
4.6	Doubles Matches	11
<b>5</b>	<b>Competition Format</b>	<b>11</b>
5.1	Team Contests	11
5.2	Schedule	12
5.3	Defaults	12
5.4	Divisions	13

<b>6</b>	<b>Championships Regulations</b>	<b>14</b>
6.1	Host Location and Organization	14
6.2	Championships Team Qualification	14
6.3	Men's/Co-ed Team Qualification	14
6.4	Women's Team Qualification	14
6.5	Paralympic Events	15
6.6	Seeding and Team Ratings	15
6.7	Rosters	15
6.8	Uniforms	15
6.9	Format	16
6.10	Players on more than one roster	16
6.11	Financial Assistance	16

# 1 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.

## 1.1 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.

## 1.2 Membership Requirements

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 Section 1.4); and
- 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.

Steps (a), (b), and (c) can all be completed online through the NCTTA website.

NCTTA reserves the right 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 catalogs and advertisements may be sent to members/school officials unless NCTTA is specifically notified not to do so.

## 1.3 Membership Status

- a. **Active/Full:** Has completed all the membership requirements described in Section 1.2 and participated in NCTTA competition.
- b. **Inactive:** Has completed all the membership requirements in Section 1.2, 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 5.3.
- 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.
- e. **Provisional:** Was put on probation, but has since paid any delinquent fees. Provisional schools are allowed to participate in any remaining competition that season and can regain Active/Full membership the following season.

## 1.4 Membership Fees

- a. **Coed Team Membership:** \$100.00 + \$25.00 refundable deposit\*
- b. **New Coed Team Membership:** \$50.00 + \$25.00 refundable deposit\*
- c. **Women's Team Membership:** No fee  
Schools that have an active women's team, will receive a \$25.00 rebate towards their women's club after registering and completing the membership requirements (see Section 1.2) for their women's club.
- d. **Payment deadlines:** Membership fees are due by the start of the competition season; either postmarked by October 1, or paid online by October 1, 11:59 PM Eastern time. Late payments will be assessed a \$50.00 late fee and must be paid online least 48 hours prior to the first scheduled Division competition.
- e. **Transitional Team Membership:** \$25.00  
Transitional membership fees must be paid online least 48 hours prior to the first NCTTA competition in which the team plans to compete.

\*Deposit will be refunded at conclusion of season to schools without any recorded contest defaults

## 2 Eligibility

### 2.1 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 minimum 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 minimum of 4 credit hours per semester and 8 credit hours per academic year (fall, spring, summer).
- c. The student/athlete must maintain an institutional cumulative grade point average (GPA) of minimum 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**.

### 2.1.1 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).

### 2.1.2 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.

### 2.1.3 Definition: Progress toward degree

*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).

## 2.2 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.

Certification of eligibility status must come from the registrar of the school where the student is enrolled.

## 2.3 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.

## 2.4 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 system, 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.

## 2.5 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.

## 2.6 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**.

## 2.7 Correspondence Courses

A student-athlete may not use a **correspondence course** to meet the minimum enrollment requirement. Correspondence courses are courses taken while on academic dismissal.

## 2.8 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.

## 2.9 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.

## **2.10 Length of Eligibility**

An NCTTA player who first competed in the 2007-2008 season or later may compete in NCTTA competitions for a maximum of four (4) academic years. Players who first competed prior to 2007-2008 may compete for up to five academic (5) years. A player has competed in an academic year if he or she has played at least one match in any NCTTA competition held that academic year.

## **2.11 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).

## **2.12 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.

## **3 Competition Rules**

### **3.1 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 4, Team Regulations.

### 3.2 Uniforms

Team uniforms are **required** to be worn at all NCTTA regional meets and must, at minimum, consist of matching shirts of the same design and color. Violations of this rule will result in a deduction of 0.5 from any team contest points earned (see Section 5.1e below).

### 3.3 Equipment

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

### 3.4 Officials

The division director will serve as the referee for a particular meet. The referee will enforce all rules and make final decisions at meets. The division director may designate another individual to act as referee if necessary. It is preferred that the referee be certified by the ITTF, USATT, or another member association of the ITTF.

### 3.5 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

### 3.6 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**.

## 4 Team Regulations

### 4.1 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 1; and
- b. Submitted an academic eligibility form for its athletes proving that they are eligible to compete as described in Section 2.

Transitional NCTTA members that satisfy these requirements will be considered official teams; however, transitional schools cannot qualify teams to the Championships (see also Section 5.4b). Provisional NCTTA members or teams on probation are not considered official teams.

## **4.2 Varsity Teams**

Each school may field one official competing varsity co-ed team (consisting entirely of men or of some men and some women) and one varsity competing women's team (consisting entirely of women) in NCTTA competitions.

## **4.3 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.

## **4.4 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 Section 4.5 for roster example.

- 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.
- 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. Teams with rosters of 1 or 2 players will NOT be permitted to compete.
- f. Female players can be included on the rosters for both co-ed 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 lineup for one

of the contests. In other words they must choose which team contest to participate in. No match will be held up unnecessarily.

## 4.5 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 contest based on competition roster:

#### Contest 1

1. Player A
2. Player B
3. Player C
4. Player D

#### Contest 2

1. Player B
2. Player D
3. Player F
4. Player H

#### Contest 3

1. Player A
2. Player C
3. Player D
4. Player G

## 4.6 Doubles Matches

- a. In a doubles match that will decide the winner of a team contest (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 contest*** must be a part of the doubles team.
- b. If a player that is scheduled to play doubles according to the contest lineup is injured and unable to play the doubles match, the team can select a substitute player from the contest lineup. This substitute selection must be made by the end of the singles matches or the team will forfeit the doubles match. The injured player may not return for the remainder of the tournament or competition.

# 5 Competition Format

## 5.1 Team Contests

- a. Team contests consist of 4 singles matches and 1 doubles match.
- b. All singles matches will be played out, regardless of the score in the contest (if the score is 3-0 after the first three singles, the fourth singles will still be played). Doubles will only be played if necessary to decide the contest outcome (if the contest is tied 2-2 after the singles matches).
- c. Individual matches are best of 5 games to 11 points.
- d. There is a grace period of fifteen (15) 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 (5) 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. Division winners will be computed using the following point system. Teams will be awarded:
  - i. 2 points for a winning a team contest
  - ii. 1 point for a non-default loss
  - iii. 0 points for a default loss
- f. Women's varsity teams will only earn match points for wins against other women's varsity teams from the same division and co-ed varsity teams will only earn match points for wins against other co-ed varsity teams from the same division.
- g. 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.

## 5.2 Schedule

- a. NCTTA competition season officially starts at October 1st and ends March 1st of 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 October 1st. Schools that fail to provide the division director input into the scheduling process are still obligated to compete according to the schedule put together by the division director.
- e. Any decision to reschedule a division meet is at the discretion of the division director.
- f. 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 *Transitional Membership* in Section 1.3c above).

## 5.3 Defaults

- a. **Match default** – forfeiture of an individual (singles or doubles match) due to injury or any other reason
- b. **Contest default** – forfeiture of a scheduled team contest because a team has a roster of fewer than three players present for the start of a scheduled contest
- c. **Meet default** – forfeiture of all scheduled team contests at a particular meet. Meet defaults are due to a failure to show up for a meet with a

minimum roster of 3 players or if a team has 2 or more contest defaults in a particular meet.

## 5.4 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.
- b. **Division size:** the number of *official teams* (Section 4.1) that compete without any meet defaults during a season. The minimum division size is 4 teams. Divisions with fewer than 4 teams are considered *transitional divisions*.
- 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. 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.
- e. Divisions that fail to comply with the scheduling guidelines in 5.2b will be considered *transitional divisions*.
- f. **Transitional divisions:** Any division that does not have the minimum number of official member schools (as described in 5.4b) 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.

## 6 Championships Regulations

### 6.1 Host Location and Organization

NCTTA Championships will be held at the conclusion of the NCTTA League competition season. The exact dates and location are determined through a formal bidding process (please see the document titled, *NCTTA Championship Bidding Guidelines*).

### 6.2 Championships Team Qualification

- a. Teams must meet the membership requirements found within the *NCTTA Rules and Regulations* and the *NCTTA Membership Agreement Form* to be eligible for invitation.
- b. Divisions must satisfy the division requirements set forth by NCTTA in the *NCTTA Rules and Regulations* to be eligible to qualify **any** team to the Championships.

### 6.3 Men's/Co-ed Team Qualification

**24 Men's/Co-ed teams** will be invited to the NCTTA Championships according to the following selection criteria:

- a. **Division champions will receive automatic invitations to the Championships.** If the division winner is ineligible or declines the invitation, the 2nd place team in the division will be invited to participate. Automatic invitations will not extend beyond 2nd place.
- b. **The host school will receive an automatic invitation to the Championships.** However, since the bid was determined months ahead, the host's school's invitation will be withdrawn if the school does not exhibit sufficient effort to participate in league play or otherwise fails to fulfill the terms of NCTTA membership.
- c. **All remaining Championship spots will be filled on a wild card basis** in order of decreasing team rating (see Section 6.6) as follows:
  - i. Divisions of size 8 or larger (see Section 5.4b above) will be eligible to qualify a second team to the Championships before teams from other divisions are considered.
  - ii. Teams from any other division will be invited to fill any remaining slots left after i.

### 6.4 Women's Team Qualification

**16 Women's teams** will be invited to the NCTTA Championships according to the following selection criteria:

- a. **Division champions will receive automatic invitations to the Championships.** If the division winner is ineligible or declines the invitation, the 2nd place team in the division will be invited to participate. Automatic invitations will not extend beyond 2nd place.
- b. **The host school will receive an automatic invitation to the Championships.** However, since the bid was determined months ahead,

the host's school's invitation will be withdrawn if the school does not exhibit sufficient effort to participate in league play or otherwise fails to fulfill the terms of NCTTA membership.

- c. **All remaining Championship spots will be filled on a wild card basis** in order of decreasing team rating (see Section 6.6) as follows:
  - i. Divisions of size 4 or larger (see Section 5.4b above) will be eligible to qualify a second team to the Championships before teams from other divisions are considered.
  - ii. Teams from any other division will be invited to fill any remaining slots left after i.

## 6.5 Paralympic Events

Qualification for NCTTA Paralympic events will follow the *NCTTA Paralympic Championships Guidelines* as defined by the NCTTA Championships Committee and NCTTA Disabled Athletes Committee.

## 6.6 Seeding and Team Ratings

Team ratings and seeding for the Championships will be calculated based on the ratings of the top 4 players from a school that are eligible to compete in the Championships.

## 6.7 Rosters

- a. Players need to have represented the school in at least one divisional meet either in a varsity team, junior varsity team, or women's team contest before being allowed on the championship roster. Only women that have played at least one (1) co-ed regional match for their school can be included on a school's co-ed championship roster. Similarly, only women that have played at least one (1) women's regional match for their school can be included on their school's women's championship roster.
- b. **Co-ed championship rosters must have a minimum of 4 players.** A team that submits a 3-player lineup for a tie, or submits a 4-player lineup in which one or more of the players listed are not present at the Championships, will default all matches in that tie.
- c. Players need to satisfy the NCTTA eligibility requirements, with documented proof (the *NCTTA Eligibility Form* or acceptable substitute) submitted to the NCTTA Registrar by the publicized deadline. Players must also submit an *NCTTA Championship Agreement* and *NCTTA Registration Form* by the deadline. Late paperwork submissions **may** be accepted with an appropriate late fee, however, this is not guaranteed.
- d. Preliminary rosters listing all the players that could play for a team in the Championships are due by a deadline decided by the NCTTA Championships Committee.
- e. Changes or additions to this roster after the deadline require explicit approval of the NCTTA Championships Committee.

## 6.8 Uniforms

All participating teams are required to have team uniforms for the Championships. A team uniform must at the minimum consist of matching shirts containing the team's name or logo. Matching shorts are strongly encouraged. Uniforms must be worn at all time during championship matches. No exceptions will be made.

## 6.9 Format

The NCTTA Championships will follow NCTTA League Competition Rules with the following exceptions:

- a. Championship-specific rule modifications are permitted as decided by the NCTTA Championships Committee and Host Organizing Committee. These changes should be described in the Championship's Athlete Handbook.
- b. Rules and format for Paralympic events will follow *NCTTA Paralympic Championships Guidelines* (see Section 6.5).

## 6.10 Players on more than one roster

Female players can be included on the rosters for both co-ed and women's teams from a particular school. 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 team contests. In other words they must choose which team contest to participate in. No match will be held up unnecessarily.

## 6.11 Financial Assistance

- a. NCTTA is able to provide *limited* funding for eligible schools to participate in the NCTTA Championships provided that the teams have exhausted all available resources and contacts at their institution.
- b. Before filing for NCTTA financial assistance, the eligible championship teams should:
  - i. Read the document entitled, *NCTTA Funding Request Information*, on the NCTTA Championships website.
  - ii. Apply for institutional assistance according to the guidelines outlined in that document.
- c. If after exhausting institutional resources, a team still has unmet funding needs, it can then ask for NCTTA financial assistance through a formal application. The application must be submitted to NCTTA at least 2 weeks prior to the Championships.
- d. The NCTTA Financial Committee will consider all such requests after completion of the Championships and notify involved teams of their decisions in a timely fashion.