



Rules and Regulations

of College Table Tennis

2013-2014 Competition Season

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1 Membership

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

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, student organization, or varsity table tennis program is eligible to join NCTTA. Only one institutionally recognized official campus student group, club, or varsity program will be accepted for membership. For institutions with both a varsity table tennis program and a table tennis club sports program, NCTTA will evaluate membership on a case by case basis.

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 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 it 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 former NCTTA member school returning to a 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. Both the team/school and any players representing the school during the delinquent season are banned from 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:** \$150
- b. **New Coed Team Membership:** \$100
- c. **Women's Team Membership:** No fee
Schools that have a women's team compete at all division meets, will receive a \$25 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 late fee and must be paid online at least 48 hours prior to the first scheduled Division competition.
- e. **Transitional Team Membership:** \$75
Transitional membership fees must be paid online least 48 hours prior to the first NCTTA competition in which the team plans to compete.

2 Eligibility

2.1 Academic Enrollment

All student athletes must meet the following minimum enrollment requirements and be *making progress toward a degree*:

- a. Undergraduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester and 18 credit hours per academic year (fall, spring, and summer).
- b. Graduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours per semester and 12 credit hours per academic year (fall, spring, and summer).
- c. As an exception, a student who is in the final semester prior to graduation is eligible if they are enrolled in the minimum number of credit hours required for graduation, Supporting documentation from

the institution's registrar's office or equivalent must be approved by NCTTA.

- d. 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 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 competitions 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 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.

2.4 Noncredit Work

Hours of noncredit work (including remedial courses) may be counted toward fulfilling the minimum 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.

2.5 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*.

2.6 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.

2.7 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.

2.8 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.

2.9 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 for a varsity team (see Section 4.2) or in NCTTA singles/doubles in any NCTTA competition held that academic year.

2.10 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 (WUG), the Universiade or other international collegiate competitions.

3 Competition Rules

3.1 Rules of Table Tennis

NCTTA will follow ITTF rules unless otherwise specified in this document.

3.2 Uniforms

Uniforms are **required** to be worn at all NCTTA competitions (singles and team) and must, at minimum, consist of matching shirts of the same design and color, and must include the school or club name or logo. Violations of this rule will result in a deduction of 0.5 from any team contest points earned (see Section 5.1d).

3.3 Equipment

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

3.4 Officials

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

3.5 Rule Violations

- a. Any player, school, or NCTTA representative who would like to report field-of-play related rule violations must do so within 48 hours of the violation otherwise the point/game/match result will stand as is.
- b. Eligibility or other non-field-of-play rule violations are not subject to the 48-hour reporting window.
- c. 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 Appeals

- 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 singles or team competitions and to be considered an **official team**, a team and any participating individuals 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.
- c. Transitional NCTTA member schools (Section 1.3c) that satisfy these requirements will be considered official teams, but cannot qualify as a team or individually to the Regional or National Championships.
- d. Provisional or probationary NCTTA members or teams 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 some mix of men and women) and one varsity competing women's team (consisting entirely of women) in NCTTA competitions.

4.3 Junior Varsity Teams

For division competitions, schools may field extra junior varsity scrimmage teams to give more club members an opportunity to compete. Scheduling of junior varsity matches is at the discretion of the division director. Junior varsity team contest results 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 captain will place the players in any order. 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 or regional director before 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 matches).
- 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:

<u>Contest 1</u>	<u>Contest 2</u>	<u>Contest 3</u>
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

4.6 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. The Team ranking order shall be determined by the number of match points won. Teams will be awarded:
 - i. 2 points for winning a team contest
 - ii. 1 point for a non-default loss
 - iii. 0 points for a default loss
- e. In division competition, 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.
- 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.
- g. In a division with only one registered women's team, that team need not be present at the division competition to win the division by default.

5.2 Singles Competition

- a. Individual matches are best of 5 games to 11 points.
- b. Players will be initially placed into round robin groups, advancing to a single elimination bracket.

- c. Any players from an NCTTA member school meeting the eligibility requirements (see Section 2) are eligible to participate in division singles competition provided they register and pay the appropriate participation fee by the deadline set by the division director.
- d. Division singles registration fees for men's singles: \$30/player, for women's singles: \$25/player.
- e. In a division where only one men's or women's singles player has registered, that player need not be present at the division competition to win the division by default.

5.3 Seeding and Ratings

- a. **Singles:** Singles seedings will be based on NCTTA individual ratings. In cases where NCTTA ratings are not available, USATT ratings or other available information may be used for seeding at the discretion of the competition referee.
- b. **Team:** Team ratings are calculated based on the individual NCTTA ratings of the top 4 players (A, B, C, and D, in order) of a school. The team rating will be $[1.5 * (A + B) + C + D]$. If there is no D player, the team rating will be $[A + B + C]$.
- c. **Team Qualification Ratings:** For wild card qualification purposes, the ratings of the 4 highest rated eligible players at each school will be used to calculate team ratings.
- d. **Team Seeding:** For seeding purposes, the ratings of the 4 highest rated players registered for that particular competition will be used. At Divisional and Regional competitions, teams will be seeded based on team ratings. At the National Championships, teams will be seeded based on $[\text{team rating} + \text{team bonus points}]$, where bonus points are awarded based on each team's final placement at Regional Championships as follows:
 - 1st Place – 800 points
 - 2nd Place – 600 points
 - 3rd Place – 400 points
 - 4th Place – 200 points

5.4 Schedule

- a. The NCTTA regular season for division competition officially starts October 1st and ends February 14th.
- b. Each school must play every other school in its division at least twice during the regular 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. Division singles competition can be held in either Fall or Spring semesters, but there will only be 1 singles competition in a full NCTTA Season (October to February)
- e. The division director must announce the team contest schedule and singles competition date(s) for the 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 division schedule.

- f. Any decision to reschedule a division meet is at the discretion of the division director.
- g. If a school joins a division mid-season, the division director may accommodate them in the team or singles competitions, assuming they have satisfied the NCTTA membership requirements (see *Transitional Membership* in Section 1.3c above).

5.5 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.
- 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.

5.6 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 3 co-ed teams. Divisions with fewer than 3 co-ed 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. Divisions that fail to comply with the scheduling guidelines in 5.4b will be considered *transitional divisions*.
- e. *Transitional divisions*: Any division that does not have the minimum number of official member schools (as described in 5.6b) 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 with the following restrictions:

- i. Results and standings from league matches will not be counted officially.
- ii. Transitional divisions cannot qualify teams or players to the Regional or National Championships.

6 Regional Championships Regulations

6.1 Date and Location

- a. Regional Championships will be held at a date and location selected by the regional director, with input from the division directors in the region.
- b. Regional Championships must be held between the end of the regular season (see Section 5.4a) and March 2nd.
- c. The regional director must announce the date and location of the Regional Championship by November 1st.

6.2 Regional Championships Qualification Eligibility

- a. Teams, singles, and doubles participants must meet the membership requirements found in Section 1 and in 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 or individual player to the Regional Championships.

6.3 Team Qualification

8 Men's/Co-ed teams and 8 Women's teams will be invited to the Regional Championships according to the following selection procedure:

- a. *The Men's/Co-ed and Women's division champions* will receive automatic invitations to the Regional Championships as direct qualifiers.
- b. **If the automatic invitation is declined**, the 2nd place team within that particular division will be invited to the Regionals.
- c. **All remaining spots will be filled on a wild card basis** in order of decreasing team rating (see Section 5.3) as follows:
 - i. Divisions of size 6 or larger (see Section 5.6b) will be eligible to qualify a second team to the Regional Championship before teams from other divisions are considered.
 - ii. Teams from any division will be invited to fill any remaining slots left after i.

6.4 Singles Qualification

- a. **24 men's singles players** will be invited to the Regional Championships according to the following selection procedure:

- i. For regions with 4 or fewer divisions, the top 4 finishers in each division will receive automatic invitations
 - ii. For regions with 5 or more divisions, the top 3 finishers in each division will receive automatic invitations
 - iii. **If an automatic invitation is declined**, the next highest finisher within that division, up to one place, will be invited to the Regionals.
- b. 8 to 16 women's singles players will be invited:
- i. For regions with 3 or fewer women's divisions, 8 spots
 - ii. For regions with 4 women's divisions, 12 spots
 - iii. For regions with 5 or more women's divisions, 16 spots
 - iv. The top 2 finishers in each division will receive automatic invitations to the Regional Championships
 - v. **If an automatic invitation is declined**, the 3rd place finisher within that division will be invited to the Regionals.
- c. Any remaining spots after automatic invitations and next highest finishers will be filled on a wildcard basis in order of decreasing individual NCTTA rating..

6.5 Rosters

- a. Players must have represented the school in at least one division competition in a varsity team or women's team contest before being allowed on a Regional Championship roster.
- b. Only women that have played at least one (1) co-ed divisional team contest for their school can be included on a school's co-ed Regional Championship roster. Similarly, only women that have played at least one (1) women's divisional team contest for their school can be included on their school's women's Regional Championship roster.

6.6 Entry Fees

Regional Championships registration fees are as follows:

- a. Coed teams: \$75, Women's teams: \$30
- b. Men's singles: \$35/player, Women's singles: \$25/player

7 National Championships Regulations

7.1 Host Location and Organization

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

7.2 Team Qualification

24 Men's/Co-ed teams and 16 Women's teams will be invited to the Team National Championships according to the following selection procedure:

- a. *The top 3 finishing Men's/Co-ed teams and top 2 finishing Women's teams at each Regional Championship will receive automatic invitations as Direct Qualifiers to the National Championships.*
- b. ***If an automatic invitation is declined***, the next highest finisher within that particular region will be invited to the Championships. This invitation will not exceed 4th place for Men's/Coed and 3rd place for Women.
- c. *The host school, if any, will receive an automatic invitation to the National Championships.* However, since the Championships site was determined prior to competition, 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.
- d. *All remaining National Championship spots will be filled on a wild card basis in order of decreasing team rating (see Section 5.3) from among the teams participating at the Regional Championships.*

7.3 Singles Qualification

80 men's singles players and 40 women's singles players will be invited to the National Championships according to the following selection procedure:

- a. *The top 8 men's singles finishers and the top 5 women's singles finishers at each Regional Championship will receive automatic invitations as Direct Qualifiers to the National Championships.*
- b. ***If an automatic invitation is declined***, the next highest finisher within that region will be invited to the National Championships. This invitation will not exceed 9th place for men and 6th place for women.
- c. *All remaining National Championship spots will be filled on a wild card basis in order of decreasing individual rating (see Section 5.3) from among the singles participants at Regional Championships.*

7.4 Doubles Qualification

32 men's doubles pairs and 16 women's doubles pairs will be selected to participate in the National Championships doubles competition according to the following selection criteria:

- a. *Doubles pairs must be formed of players from the same school.*
- b. *Doubles pairs must consist of players already qualified for the National Championships in either singles or the team event.*
- c. *Doubles pairs must register their interest to participate in the doubles competition by a deadline listed on the Championships website.*

From the list of registered doubles pairs, pairs will be selected to participate in the doubles competition in order of decreasing rating of the pairs, up to the maximum for the men's and women's doubles event. Doubles ratings and seedings will be based on the combined NCTTA ratings of the players on the doubles team.

7.5 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.

7.6 Rosters

- a. Rosters for the National Championships are subject to the requirements of Regional Championship rosters (Section 6.5), plus the additional requirements outlined in this section.
- 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 and teams must register for the Championships by the via the Championships website by the published deadline.
- 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.

7.7 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. Any such changes will be noted in the Championship's Athlete Handbook.
- b. Rules and format for Paralympic events will follow *NCTTA Paralympic Championships Guidelines* (see Section 7.5).

7.8 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.