



Rules and Regulations

of College Table Tennis

2015-2016 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.

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:** Has completed all the membership requirements described in Section 1.2 and will participate in NCTTA competition this season.
- b. **Limited:**
 - i. Has completed all the membership requirements described in Section 1.2
 - ii. May participate in NCTTA singles competition
 - iii. May participate in the team competition during the Spring Semester (can apply to a former NCTTA member school returning to a division after a semester or more hiatus)
 - iv. May participate in all competitions of a *transitional division* as described in Section 5.6.

- c. **Inactive:** Has completed all the membership requirements in Section 1.2, but opted not to participate in NCTTA competition this year/season.
- d. **Delinquent:** 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.

1.4 Membership Fees

Membership fees can be found: <http://www.nctta.org/content/fee-schedule>

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 late fee and must be paid online at least 48 hours prior to the first scheduled Division competition.

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.

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 may compete in NCTTA competitions for a maximum of four (4) academic 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.

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.

Violation must be reported immediately to the competition referee and the violator must immediately remedy the violation. If the situation cannot be remedied, the following penalty will be applied:

- During round-robin matches: a deduction of 0.5 match points from the round-robin match points total for each instance.
- During knock-out matches: the violator will lose his/her match by walkover.

Players will not be retroactively penalized.

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 1.2.
- b. Submitted an academic eligibility form for its athletes proving that they are eligible to compete as described in Section 2.
- c. Limited NCTTA member schools (Section 1.3b) that satisfy these requirements will be considered official teams, but cannot qualify as a team or individually to the Regional or National Championships.
- d. Delinquent NCTTA members or teams are not considered official teams.

4.2 Varsity Teams

Each school may field one official competing varsity coed team (consisting of any number of men and/or 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 3 players (except National Championship, see Section 7.6) 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.

- a. Each school must submit an ordered roster to the division director or regional director by the online NCTTA competition deadline.
- 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.

Female players can be included on the rosters for both coed and women's teams. However, if both teams are scheduled to play within the same time period such players can only be included in the 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.

5 Competition Format

5.1 Team Contests

- a. Team contests consist of 4 singles matches and 1 doubles match.
- b. All teams must submit a lineup form prior to each contest indicating the players competing.
- c. 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).
- d. Individual matches are best of 5 games to 11 points.
- e. In round-robin play, 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
- f. 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 coed varsity teams will only earn match points for wins against other coed varsity teams from the same division.
- g. Tie-breaking procedure: ITTF tie-breaking procedures will be used to determine winners among teams with the same number of match points.
- h. 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, however, the team must complete all NCTTA paperwork (including registration, roster, eligibility form...etc) as if they were competing.
- i. Should any team member default, if the match is tied after the singles have been played, the offending team will then forfeit the doubles match.
- j. Teams with three players present will default the 4th singles and the doubles match.
 - i. Two teams with three players each will play 3 singles matches to determine a winner (best of 3, instead of best of 5 matches).
- k. Teams with lineups of 1 or 2 players will NOT be permitted to compete.

5.1.1 Line-up 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. Player D	4. Player H	4. Player G

5.1.2 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, other than the first 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 roster. 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. If the injured player is substituted, the opposing team may also substitute their second doubles player.

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. 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, however, the player must complete all NCTTA paperwork (including registration, eligibility form...etc) as if s/he was competing.

5.3 Seeding and Ratings

- a. **Singles:** Singles seeding 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 using the method described here: <http://nctta.org/content/rankings>.

5.4 Schedule

- a. The NCTTA regular season for division competition officially starts October 1st and ends February 15th.
- b. Each school must play every other school the same number of times with the minimum being twice during the regular season. Every team must play each other at least once before December 31st. This rule does not apply to limited member schools or schools with remote school participation waiver (see section 5.7)
- 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 *Limited 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.

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 coed teams. Divisions with fewer than 3 coed 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
 - i. Results and standings from league matches will not be counted officially.
 - ii. Transitional divisions from the start of the season cannot qualify teams or players to the Regional or National Championships.
- f. **Relegated Divisions:** Divisions that fail to maintain the minimum number of schools over the course of the competition season
 - i. An NCTTA division that becomes a Relegated Division can only qualify teams or players to the Regionals via wild card.

5.7 Remote School Participation Waiver (RSPW)

- a. Any NCTTA school that needs to drive more than 8 hours or must cross an ocean to attend a given divisional tournament is eligible to apply.
- b. Each application will be reviewed by **eligibility committee** and must be submitted two weeks prior to the divisional tournament date.
- c. Schools that have been granted a RSPW must still submit eligibility forms and rosters prior to the divisional tournament.
- d. A school can be granted a RSPW a maximum of three times consecutively.

RSPW Regional Championship qualification

- a. Teams
 - i. If RSPW is used for both divisional tournaments in the same season, all players on the team must have participated in at least one national governing body (USATT/TTCAN) sanctioned tournament between September 1st and December 31st.
 - ii. Any team using at least one RSPW can only qualify for the regional tournament through wildcard qualification rules.
 - iii. Only players present on the team roster will be eligible to represent the school at regionals and nationals.

b. Singles

- i. A singles player using RSPW must have participated in at least one national governing body (USATT/TTCAN) sanctioned tournament between September 1st and December 31st.
- ii. A singles player using RSPW can only qualify for the regional tournament through wildcard qualification rules.

c. Ratings

- i. Any players without an NCTTA rating will have their USATT/TTCAN rating converted to an NCTTA rating.

6 Regional Championships Regulations

6.1 Date and Location

- Regional Championships will be held at a date and location selected by the regional director, with input from the division directors in the region.
- Regional Championships must be held between Feb 20 and March 6.
- The regional director must announce the date and location of the Regional Championship by November 1st.

6.2 Regional Championships Qualification Eligibility

Teams and singles participants must have received an invitation to the regional tournament and signed up and paid for the respective regional events.

6.3 Team Qualification

12 Men's/Coed teams and **8 Women's teams** will be invited to the Regional Championships according to the following selection procedure:

- The Men's/Coed and Women's division champions** will receive automatic invitations to the Regional Championships as direct qualifiers.
- If the automatic invitation is declined**, the 2nd place team within that particular division will be invited to the Regionals.
- If a division has 6 schools (see Section 5.6b) or larger**, the 2nd place team within that particular division will be invited to the Regionals.
- All remaining spots will be filled on a wild card basis** in order of decreasing team rating (see Section 5.3).

6.4 Singles Qualification

- 24 men's singles players** will be invited to the Regional Championships according to the following selection procedure:
 - For regions with 4 or fewer divisions, the top 4 finishers in each division will receive automatic invitations
 - For regions with 5 or more divisions, the top 3 finishers in each division will receive automatic invitations
- 8 to 16 women's singles players** will be invited:
 - For regions with 3 or fewer women's divisions, 8 spots
 - For regions with 4 women's divisions, 12 spots
 - For regions with 5 or more women's divisions, 16 spots
 - The top 2 finishers in each division will receive automatic invitations to the Regional Championships
- Any remaining spots after automatic invitations will be filled on a wildcard basis in order of decreasing individual NCTTA rating.

6.5 Rosters

- 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 unless previously approved by the eligibility committee via RSPW.

- b. Only women that have played at least one (1) coed divisional team contest for their school can be included on a school's coed 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.
- c. For any team that wins their divisional tournament by default, all players on the submitted roster will be considered eligible.

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/Coed 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/Coed 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 4 women's singles finishers at each Regional Championship** will receive automatic invitations as Direct Qualifiers to the National Championships.
- b. **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 seeding 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. **Championship rosters must have a minimum of 4 players.** A team that submits a 3-player lineup for a contest, or submits a 4-player lineup in which one or more of the players listed are not present at the Championships, will default that contest.
- c. Players and teams must register for the Championships 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.
- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.