



Table Tennis Western Australia (Inc)



PENNANT REGULATIONS

Version 1.3 March 2024

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Revision History:

Revision Date	Version	Comments
Jan 2017	1.0	Regulations Updated
Jan 2019	1.1	Update New layout Teams & Players Grading Rewording and simplification of Pennant Rules
Aug 2019	1.2	Clarification to regulations regarding substitute and fill-in players Clarification to regulations 'Un-Registered Players'
March 2024	1.3	Updates to team rating levels, rewording for clearer understanding, removal of redundant clauses and corrections inline with constitution

Name

1. This document shall be referred to as the **TTWA Pennant Regulations**.

Purpose

2. The object of TTWA Pennant Regulations is to govern the Pennant Competition and ensure a properly controlled inter-club competition, enabling players who have reached the standard of the various grades, to compete against players of the same grade over a given period, thereby obtaining consistent practice, and assisting to better the standard of Table Tennis generally. Also, to create friendly rivalry between clubs with the same end in view and to award trophies to those clubs whose teams prove to be the strongest in each grade throughout the competition. These regulations should be read in conjunction with the **Match Committee Policy** and the **TTWA/TTA Player Code of Conduct**.

Pennant Regulations

3. Season

- a. A season shall be the period of any year during which the Association shall conduct Pennant Fixtures.

4. Clubs

- a. A club may nominate a team (or teams) of players to compete in the pennant competition in the format determined by the Match Committee, by the designated closing date.
 - i. Each club shall designate a person as a point of contact to liaise with the Match Committee as needed in all matters relating to pennant fixtures.
- b. Clubs opting to host Pennant Matches (if available) must meet the following criteria:
 - i. Clubs electing to host their home matches will be played at the club venue unless otherwise altered by the Match Committee.
 - ii. Be within 30Km radius of the Perth CBD.
 - iii. Provide a suitable match playing area, with umpire chairs, scoreboards, court barriers and adequate lighting.
 - iv. Provide at least 1 table per Pennant match and target a finish time of 9.30pm for all Pennant seasons.
 - v. Have drinking water & toilet facilities.
 - vi. Provide an official club contact who is responsible for the following:
 - Opening the club venue 30 minutes prior to commencement of play.
 - Providing and returning completed scoresheets to matchcommittee@ttwa.org.au within 24 hours of the match completion.
 - Notifying the Match Committee of any forfeits or incidents that occur during Pennants matches.
- c. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, Clubs shall notify the Match Committee with not less than 24 hours notice if they are unable to field a team for their scheduled fixture.
 - i. Neither teams results shall be recorded if the rescheduled fixture is not completed within the specified time. (see section 8.h. for rules and times on postponing fixtures)

- d. Clubs shall be fined on team 'no shows' and forfeiting if they fail to provide 24 hours' notice prior to the scheduled match to the opposing team captain, the Match Committee, and the Association office:
 - i. 3 player team format = \$100 forfeit fine
 - ii. 2 player format = \$50 forfeit fine
 - iii. Note: Clubs are responsible for paying the above fines
- e. For the purposes of this document only, TTWA shall be deemed to be a club.

5. Players

- a. Team players nominated by clubs to participate in Pennants shall be 'Full Members' of TTWA in the current calendar year.
- b. Un-registered players are not permitted to participate in pennants.
 - i. An 'un-registered player' is a player who has not been registered by a club to participate in pennants, and/or who is not a current registered member of TTWA.
 - ii. Any un-registered player found to be participating in pennants shall result in forfeiture for the entire teams results for the fixture round in which they played.
- c. Fill-in players shall not be permitted to participate in pennants without prior consent from the Match Committee. Fill-in players meeting the criteria stated in section 6.b. do not require prior consent but club/teams must notify the match committee.
- d. No player shall be permitted to play for more than one club in any pennant competition, whether that be in the same Div/grade or in different Div/grades, unless prior written approval is obtained from the Match Committee, which approval shall only be given if the Match Committee considers the circumstances to be extenuating.

6. Teams

- a. A team shall consist of 3 singles players (2 for 2-player competition) and additional player/s may be nominated to participate in a maximum of two doubles matches per fixture.
 - i. The clubs shall nominate either a playing or non-playing Team Captain for each team entered.
 - ii. Team captains shall:
 - List their team players order of play on the score sheet provided, prior to commencement of the match.
 - Upon completion of the match, check the accuracy and legibility of the scoresheet and sign their approval prior to submission.
 - Ensure that their team players arrive at the venue and commence their matches

on time.

- Unless there are extenuating circumstances, Team Captains shall notify the club they are representing and the opposing team captain with not less than 24 hours notice if they are unable to field a team for their scheduled fixture. The match committee must also be notified.
- b. A player may only play for the club and team in which they are nominated. A pennant player from the same club may play up one (1) division/grade as a fill-in, a maximum of:
 - i. 2 times in Summer & Spring Pennants and;
 - ii. 3 times in Winter Pennants;
 - iii. Non-compliance shall result in forfeiture of that player's matches unless permission is first obtained from the Match Committee.
 - iv. Under no circumstances shall a player play for two different teams on the same night.
- c. During pennant fixtures all team players shall conform to current I.T.T.F. Dress Regulations and shall wear club colours.
 - The Match Committee may impose penalties on teams where continued breaches of the code are observed.
- d. In the event of a club being unable to field a full team, the players available shall take part in the fixture round and the absentee player(s) shall forfeit their full number of rubbers to the opposing team.
- e. A fine may be imposed on any team forfeiting a fixture as per Clause 4.d. No player from such a team shall be eligible to play in any competition, except the current pennant season up to finals, until such fine is paid. Any team forfeiting 3 fixtures in 1 season will automatically be withdrawn from the competition and any fixtures played will be treated as having been a bye.
- f. If a team withdraws from the pennant competition without having been disqualified in accordance with these regulations, the Board of Management shall have the power to impose a penalty on that team.
- g. Should a team player be unable to complete a pennant season, the club may apply to the Match Committee to have that player substituted with a replacement.
 - i. Clubs must offer a legitimate reason as to why a player cannot complete the pennant season in which they were nominated.
 - ii. Approval of substitution players shall be at the discretion of the Match Committee.

7. Team Nominations

- a. Clubs shall nominate teams of not less than:
 - i. 3 players for 3-player competition or 2 players for 2-player competition for each team entered in the pennant competition.
- b. Nominating Team Grades – (See Appendix 1 for examples).
 - i. Ratings Central will be used to determine player ratings and the overall team rating shall be in line with Division/Grade guidelines listed below:
 - Div1/A Grade: 1300 >
 - Div2/B Grade: 1000-1300
 - Div3/C Grade: 700-1000
 - Div4/D Grade: < 700
 - ii. Players with a rating exceeding +/- 50 of the above table shall not be allowed into that Div/Grade except at the discretion of the match committee.
 - iii. New or unrated players shall be nominated by clubs with a suggested player rating in accordance with their observed ability.
- c. Final team grading shall be at the discretion of the Match Committee and some teams may be placed in a different division/grade to balance the competition.
- d. Team Fee and season nightly playing fees
 - i. TTWA shall invoice clubs or teams directly the Pennant Team Entry fee and season nightly playing fees for each team nominated for the amount determined at the TTWA Annual General Meeting.

8. Pennant Fixtures

- a. A Pennant Fixture shall comprise a competition between any 2 teams in any one division/grade in a format determined by the Match Committee as follows:
 - i. Matches to the best of five or seven games (singles), doubles to the best of five:
 - "3-Player Team – 10 or 11 matches" consisting of 9 singles and 1 or 2 doubles.
 - Doubles shall consist of differently constituted pairs for each match.
 - "3-Player Team - 9 matches" consisting of 6 singles and 3 doubles.
 - Doubles shall consist of differently constituted pairs for each match.
 - No player may compete in more than 2 Doubles matches.
 - "3-Player Team - 9 matches" consisting of 9 singles.
 - "2-Player Team" - 5 matches consisting of 4 singles and 1 doubles.
- b. Home Teams shall be designated as being ABC (AB for 2-Player Fixtures) and the Away Team designated as XYZ (XY for 2-Player Fixtures).

- c. Pennant fixtures shall be conducted on the dates and at the venues determined by the Match Committee and shall commence at 7.00pm.
 - i. No pennant fixture shall commence unless at least 2 players (3-player competition) and at least 1 player (2-player competition) be present at 7.00pm
 - ii. Any fixture not commenced 30 minutes after the scheduled starting time shall be forfeited by the team that does not have the minimum number of players present.
 - iii. If a fixture does not start by 7.30pm, the match is forfeited. The score sheet must be submitted detailing the forfeit to the Match Committee and a fine may be imposed as per clause 4.d.
 - iv. If the match starts, any missing player shall forfeit their rubbers for which they are not present at their scheduled rubber start time.
 - For 2-player format matches, if the 2nd player is not present at their scheduled rubber start time, the match is considered a forfeit and a fine imposed as per clause 4.d.
- d. Pennant scoresheets, in a format determined by the Match Committee shall be provided prior to the commencement of each fixture round.
 - i. Completed score sheets must be signed by both team captains and shall be submitted in accordance with the designated procedure. If the sum of the results is inconsistent with the scores provided, then neither team's match results shall be recorded.
- e. In exceptional circumstances, the Match Committee may postpone any or all fixtures or finals rounds for a period it sees fit.
- f. Should an interruption to a pennant fixture occur, (e.g. a power failure), the fixture must be completed by the end of the following week with the same players and resuming at the point where the fixture was interrupted.
- g. The 'Order of Play' shall be determined by the Match Committee and shall be carried out according to the corresponding scoresheets.
 - i. A maximum of a 2-minute warm-up shall be allowed prior to the commencement of each pennant match.
 - ii. Where back-to-back matches are scheduled a break of up to 5 minutes is permitted.
- h. Postponing of Fixtures
 - i. Clubs or teams may NOT amend pennant fixtures solely by mutual agreement.
Applications for all such changes must be made to the Match Committee at least 24 hours prior to the fixture's original date. Amended fixtures must be played by the end

of the following week of the original date and prior to the scheduled date for any final round fixture in that division/grade. No further postponement of that fixture shall be allowed. Neither team shall score points from fixtures not played within the specified time unless the Match Committee imposes a forfeit on one of the teams.

- ii. Notwithstanding the abovementioned restrictions on the postponement of fixtures, the Match Committee shall postpone any fixture, including a Grand Final, for such period as it thinks fit only if it considers the circumstances to be exceptional.

9. Scoring of Points & Pennant Ladders

- a. The 'Scoring of Points' and Pennant Ladders shall be determined by the Match Committee.

10. Final Round

- a. The Match Committee shall determine the final round format in line with the examples detailed in Appendix 2.
- b. To be eligible to play in final round fixtures in any given division/grade, a player must have played singles matches in no fewer than one-third (1/3) of the scheduled round fixtures in that division/grade.
- c. In final round fixtures the team finishing higher on the ladder, after the preliminary round fixtures, shall have the choice of being ABC (AB) or XYZ (XY).

11. Balls & Umpiring

- a. The ball used shall be one of the brands approved by the Association and of a colour and grade decided upon by the Association prior to that pennant competition.
- b. Where balls are not provided by TTWA, the Home Team shall provide the ball.
- c. The Home Team shall umpire the first match and thereafter each team will umpire alternately.
- d. Umpires shall use scoring machines to record the scores of all matches played throughout the fixture and results immediately recorded on the corresponding score sheet.
- e. Pennant Grand final matches are to be umpired by independent officials nominated by the Match Committee.

12. Conditions of Play
 - a. All pennant fixtures shall be conducted in accordance with the current I.T.T.F. Laws and Regulations for International Competitions.
13. Queries
 - a. All queries regarding pennant fixtures shall be addressed in writing to the Match Committee. If for any reason the Match Committee is not available to receive & to resolve such queries in a timely manner, the Board of Management shall have the authority to do so, without reference to the Match Committee.
14. Player Grade Averages & Aggregates
 - a. The Player Grade Averages & Aggregates shall be determined by the Match Committee.
15. Rules for Able Bodies Players Competing Against Wheelchair Players
 - a. The service to a player in a wheelchair shall be long enough for such player to reach from the normal seated position and directed so that the ball would cross the baseline of the table if not struck before this point.
 - b. In doubles, the wheelchair player must maintain a position so that part of the chair is within a boundary made by the extension of the side lines of the table and no further away from the table than 2 metres.
 - c. The doubles pair containing a wheelchair player is not required to hit the ball alternately.
16. Powers of the Match Committee
 - a. The Match Committee shall have the power to: -
 - i. Hear and determine all protests and disputes concerning players, clubs and any other matter referred to it by the Association or the Chief Executive Officer of the Association provided that such matters relate only to the conduct of Pennant or TTWA Cup competition fixtures.
 - ii. Impose such disqualification or inflict such fines or other penalties as it may, subject to the rules, determine regarding any matter referred to it.

Appendix 1 – Team Nomination Information:

- Explanation

Div 1/A Grade: 1300+ would allow players 1250+, provided the team average is over 1300.

Div 2/B Grade: 1000-1300 - would allow players 950-1350, provided the team average is within 1000-1300.

Div 3/C Grade: 700-1000 - would allow players 650-1050, provided the team average is within 700-1000.

Div 4/D Grade: <700 - would allow players 0-750, provided the team average is less than 700.

- Examples:

Acceptable Team Example:

Player 1: 1030

Player 2: 950

Player 3: 853

Player 4: 651

Average: 871 – C Grade (All players within +/- 50 of the team average)

Unacceptable Team Example:

Player 1: 1055 (Greater than 50)

Player 2: 850

Player 3: 751

Player 4: 640 (Less than 50)

Average: 824 – C Grade

Unacceptable Team Example:

Player 1: 1280 (Greater than 50)

Player 2: 950

Player 3: 851

Player 4: 790

Average: 968 – C Grade

Appendix 2 - Pennant Finals Examples:

iii. Final Five

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| • Elimination Final | 4th Team | V | 5th Team |
| • Qualifying Final | 2nd Team | V | 3rd Team |
| • 1st Semi-Final | Winner Elimination Final | V | Loser Qualifying Final |
| • 2nd Semi-Final | 1st Team | V | Winner Qualifying Final |
| • Preliminary Final | Winner 1st Semi-Final | V | Loser 2nd Semi-Final |
| • Grand Final | Winner Preliminary Final | V | Winner 2nd Semi-Final |

iv. Final Four (1)

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| • First Semi-Final | 3rd Team | V | 4th Team |
| • Second Semi-Final | 1st Team | V | 2nd Team |
| • Preliminary Final | Winner 1st Semi-Final | V | Loser 2nd Semi-Final |
| • Grand Final | Winner Preliminary. Final V | Winner 2nd Semi-Final | |

v. Final Four (2)

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| • | First Semi-Final | 1st Team | V | 4th Team |
| • | Second Semi-Final | 2nd Team | V | 3rd Team |
| • | Grand Final | Winner 1st Semi-Final | V | Winner 2nd Semi-Final |

vi. Final Two

- 1st Team v 2nd Team