



Mornington Peninsula and Frankston City Table Tennis Association Inc (MFTTA)

MATCH RULES AND REGULATIONS POLICY

Version: Version 4, 18 August 2020

Drafted By: Initial draft 2013; Edited by Les Dawson (Treasurer MPTTA) and David Griersmith with format standardisation 16 and 17 August 2020; Board edits 18 August 2020; name change to MFTTA

Approved and endorsed by: MPTTA Board of Directors at its meeting on 18 August 2020

1 The Laws of Table Tennis

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) is the governing body of the sport and its members are the affiliated table tennis associations in over 200 countries. Its main role is to control and develop the sport therefore all members must abide by its laws. Each 2-3 years a new set of laws are published and these can be downloaded from the ITTF website at: <https://www.ittf.com/handbook/>

The ITTF Laws of Table Tennis form the basis of control for matches played within the MFTTA stadium or other recognised venues where MFTTA matches take place. These laws cover such things as the table, the net assembly, the ball, the racket, service, return, order of play, a let, a point, a game, a match, order of serving, receiving and ends, and the expedite system.

- 1.1 A copy of the current ITTF Laws of Table Tennis will be kept at the stadium for reference by the Duty Officer or members, to assist in dispute settlement. The laws are contained in the ITTF handbook available at <https://www.ittf.com/handbook/>
- 1.2 These ITTF Laws of Table Tennis shall be the main criteria for settling disputes arising during play, and are designed to complement the MFTTA "Match Rules and Regulations". Where there is any inconsistency between the MFTTA "Match Rules and Regulations" and the ITTF rules, the former shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency. The "Match Rules and Regulations" used by MFTTA are the same as those used by Table Tennis

Victoria (TTV) which in turn are the ITTF rules and regulations. The TTV rules are available at <https://www.tabletennisvic.org.au/tournaments/rules-and-regulations/>.

1.3 In relation to the playing of competition matches of table tennis within the Junior Pennant, the Co-ordinator may modify such regulations as he or she deems necessary for the benefit of members.

2.0 Local Rules & Regulations Governing Control of Competitions, Tournaments, Registration, Eligibility, etc.

2.1 Competitions

2.1.1 Fixtures: The MFTTA Board of Directors (formerly called the MPTTA Committee of Management) or any Pennant Sub-Committee formed for the purpose shall decide:

- The format and length of all pennant fixtures and the finals series of each season.
- The number and type of Local and Para Tournaments for the year.
- The number and type of Open and Para Tournaments for the year.
- The number and type of other Tournaments or matches e.g. Inter-Association Challenges, etc.
- Draw up an Annual Calendar placing each of the above events on fixed or tentative dates.
- The Senior and Junior Pennant competitions shall be conducted on those nights, and at times, and at such playing venues, as determined by the Board of Directors of the Association.

2.1.2 The Association shall conduct and manage a Senior Pennant competition and a Junior Pennant competition for the benefit of members throughout each calendar year.

2.1.3 The Senior and Junior Pennant competitions shall normally be organised into three or four consecutive seasons within each calendar year, the seasons comprising Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring in that order.

2.1.4 The Senior Pennant competition is open to all members irrespective of age, but the Junior Pennant competition is restricted to those members under the age of 18 years at the end of the preceding calendar year (unless waived by the Co-ordinator of the Junior Pennant competition).

2.2 Venue

2.2.1 All local competitions shall normally be played at the MFTTA stadium.

2.2.2 If required other venues can be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

3.0 Registration/Membership

3.1 All players who wish to play pennant must become registered members of Table Tennis Victoria Incorporated (TTV Inc) for affiliation and insurance purposes, and must become

financial members of MFTTA Inc. The registration of a natural person as a member of the MFTTA Inc. Association shall be deemed to be an acceptance of the Match Rules & Regulations

- 3.2 Life members of the MFTTA are to pay the actual cost of TTV registration. Players claiming to be covered by other Associations must produce evidence of such coverage or pay the required amount.
- 3.3 TTV registered players may fill in for another player providing the requirements of these rules are met, without cost (See rule 14.0 Limitation of Play, and rule 16.0 for Finals Eligibility and limitation of matches with a particular team).
- 3.4 A player is only permitted to play two matches unregistered, after which TTV Inc registration is compulsory.
- 3.5 A fill-in player must be no higher (i.e. better) than the highest handicapped player in a given grade. The only exception to this is in the top A grade division where a player can be of any standard.
- 3.6 Any player that plays in a pennant competition for three or more matches who is not registered as a member of the MFTTA Inc Association or is not registered as a member (at least at the minimum level) of TTV Inc, shall forfeit all subsequent rubbers played, and is ineligible to play in any further matches until so registered.
- 3.7 The Board of Directors reserves the right to refuse entry into any pennant by any player, and if the Board of Directors exercises this right, the Secretary of the Association shall notify the player affected, in writing, of the said decision.

4.0 **Registration of Individuals and Teams**

- 4.1 Where team registrations are sought for a given format, team entries will be graded into divisions by the Pennant Committee. Where there are more team entries than required the Pennant Committee will undertake its best endeavours to accommodate players.
- 4.2 In seasons where individual entries are sought rather than team entries the Pennant Committee will undertake its best endeavours to ensure those that submit individual entries are placed in an appropriate team and grade.
- 4.3 Individual entries shall normally be allowed in all seasons. However where entries exceed places available then the Pennant Committee will hold a ballot of individual entries and advise those players that fail to gain entry into the competition.
- 4.4 Junior Pennant will be conducted by the Junior Co-ordinator or Pennant Secretary for all formatted games conducted over a given season or time period.
- 4.5 In the event of a team being unable to field a full team, the number of players available shall take part in the match, and the absentee player or players shall forfeit their rubbers to the opposing side unless an acceptable player or acceptable players fill in.

4.6 At the conclusion of a pennant season, a player ceases to be a member of any team until registered in accordance with procedures above for the following pennant season.

5. Additional or Substitute Players

5.1 During the season, additional or substitute players may be registered with the Pennant Secretary prior to a match by completing the prescribed Substitute Player Form and having the player graded by a member of the Committee or persons delegated by it; or alternatively, by endorsing the name, address and relevant previous playing experience of the player on the prescribed Substitute Player Form and attaching it to the scoresheet for the Pennant Secretary. However, in the case of the latter, the registration is subject to the approval of the Committee. Failure to comply will result in the loss of the said player's rubbers.

5.2 The registration of an additional or substitute player in a team may be refused by the Committee if the subsequent addition to the team in question, would result in that team being significantly better than that of the standard team in that grade. The additional or substitute player must be no more than five handicap points higher (i.e. better) than the player being replaced. Accordingly, a refusal for breach of the above rule will result in the loss of the said player's rubbers where the said player has played any matches.

5.3 If an opposing team objects to the playing of an alternative or substitute player on a fixture pennant night (the said player not yet approved by the Board of Directors), the Team Captain of the opposing team shall endorse the score sheet with the word "Protest" marked clearly, or alternatively, notify the Pennant Secretary within 3 days following the match requesting that the relevant scoresheet be so endorsed, and then the Team Captain shall lodge a formal protest in accordance with these regulations.

5.4 Notwithstanding the above clauses, in the Junior Pennant, additional or substitute players may be registered during the season with the Junior Co-ordinator or Pennant Secretary prior to a match by completing the prescribed Entry Form and having the player graded by the Co-ordinator or Pennant Secretary of the Junior Pennant.

6 Pennant Fees

6.1 All pennant fees shall be determined by the Board of Directors of the Association prior to the commencement of each pennant competition season.

6.2 A substitute player shall not be liable for the payment of a pennant fee in circumstances where the team, in which he or she is playing, has fully paid their pennant. In circumstances where the team, or a player thereof, has not fully paid their pennant fees, such substitute player shall pay outstanding pennant fees by the end of their second competition night unless permission is sought and granted by the Pennant Committee.

7 Payment of Pennant Fees

7.1 Pennant fees (including the prescribed annual registration fee of the MFTTA Inc. and the minimum prescribed annual registration fee of TTV Inc) shall be paid with entry forms.

- 7.2 Any current registered MFTTA member who has paid their annual TTV Inc. fees can apply to the Pennant Committee for delayed payment of pennant fees where they can demonstrate hardship. Where hardship has been demonstrated, payment will be extended to no later than the fourth round of the pennant competition for which fees are being sought.
- 7.3 If fees remain outstanding by the completion of the relevant round prescribed in clause 7.1 then the Pennant Secretary may exercise his or her discretion and not publish the offending team's match results until all outstanding fees are received by the Association.

8 Annual Memberships

- 8.1 Annual membership is available to all approved MFTTA members. Annual membership fees and the rights of annual membership will be set by the Board of Directors prior to the end of each calendar year for the following year. To qualify as an annual member, the total amount payable (including the annual MFTTA and TTV registration fees) must have been paid by the first night of the Summer Pennant competition in which the player has registered. Where a player seeks annual membership but chooses not to play in the summer pennant then payment must be paid by the Friday night of the first week of competition.
- 8.2 Annual members are not required to pay practice fees, however during Junior pennant and Junior training and practice nights (currently Friday evenings), registered junior MFTTA members shall have priority over tables and senior members undertaking practice on such nights must give way when such tables are required by junior members.
- 8.3 Members may receive a reduced TTV registration rate for the last half of any calendar year.

9 Family Memberships

- 9.1 Family memberships are available to all approved MFTTA members. Family membership fees and the rights of family membership will be set by the Board of Directors prior to the end of each calendar year for the following year. To qualify as a family member, the total amount payable (including the annual MFTTA and TTV registration fees) must have been paid by the first night of the pennant competition in which any one of the family members has registered.
- 9.2 Family membership is at minimum one adult membership for the pennant season being entered into by a family member. Annual family membership is equal to at minimum one adult annual membership and one Junior annual membership.
- 9.3 Family membership covers one adult and their dependent children.
- 9.4 Once siblings have independent income e.g. they are working, receive Austudy or another type of government benefit to support their independence, they are no longer covered by family membership and require separate membership registration.

10 Practice Fees

- 10.1 Practice fees are normally payable on the night of practice and generally collection is via an honour system. There is a current fee per person per practice session displayed in the stadium.
- 10.2 *Between seasons*: Where MFTTA and TTV Inc registered players are not annual members they are required to pay practice fees when practicing outside of a normal pennant season for which they have paid.
- 10.3 *Within seasons*: Practice fees apply on any night excluding a normal match night or finals night of a player's allotted pennant night.
- 10.4 Life members are not required to pay practice fees.

11 Allocation of Points

- 11.1 Allocation of points shall be determined by the format of the competition.
- 11.2 Byes shall be deemed a win and each team receiving a bye will be automatically credited with maximum points, all rubbers and no games (a match scoresheet need not be submitted). Rubbers will not be allocated to individual players.

12 Order of Ranking

- 12.1 In the event of teams finishing on equal points at the completion of the pennant fixture rounds, the order of ranking shall be determined by the percentage of rubbers won and lost and, if necessary, the percentage of games won and lost, and if necessary, by the percentage of points won and lost, in that order.

13 Date of Pennant Fixtures

- 13.1 The date of pennant fixtures shall be arranged by the Board of Directors of the Association. Should teams competing in pennant fixtures mutually arrange for the match to be played on an alternative date than the date of the fixture, the prior approval of the either a Referee, or the Pennant Secretary must be sought at least 24 hours prior to the original date of the fixture.

14 Limitation of Play

- 14.1 No player, registered in a team, is permitted to play in a grade lower than that in which the player is currently playing.
- 14.2 No player shall play in more than one pennant match in any one week unless they meet one of the exceptions listed below or unless approved.
- 14.3 An exception to 14.2 is that if a player's team has a bye, then that player may play if needed in a higher grade. That person shall not play for another team in the same grade that the player is registered in.

- 14.4 Another exception to 14.2 is where the Association decides to run different styles of competition concurrently, e.g. a handicap pennant with normal graded pennant.
- 14.5 Another exception to 14.2 is if a match is re-scheduled and approved by the Pennant Committee.

15 Closed Championships

- 15.1 Any player wishing to compete in the MFTTA Inc. closed championships normally conducted during the winter season must fulfil the following requirements:-
- a) The player must be MFTTA and TTV registered.
 - b) The player must have registered in a MFTTA team at the start of the current season and have played at least three matches as a singles player.
 - c) Juniors currently playing in MFTTA junior pennant and satisfying a) and b) above may enter senior closed events in grades acceptable to the Organising Committee.
- 15.2 The Board of Directors of the Association reserves the right to restrict or refuse entries for any event, or cancel events where there are insufficient entries.
- 15.3 Any player not ready to play when requested by the Referee (or acting Referee) shall be disqualified from that event.
- 15.4 No refunds shall be allowed for players withdrawing during or prior to the tournament except those approved by the Organising Committee.
- 15.5 Any player who enters an event in which they are not eligible shall be disqualified and forfeit their entry fee.
- 15.6 The entry form of any player which is incomplete or inaccurate shall render that player liable to disqualification at any time, either before, during, or after, an event.
- 15.7 Notwithstanding the above clauses, all tournament matches shall be governed by "The ITTF Laws of Table Tennis and Regulations for International Competitions".
- 15.8 The Board of Directors shall have the power to vary the requirements of this Regulation by providing written notice to the players affected by the said variation.

16 Eligibility to Play In Finals Matches

- 16.1 To be eligible to play in any pennant finals match, a player must have competed in at least three matches with that team during the minor rounds. Exceptions to this have to be approved by Pennant Committee.
- 16.2 When a substitute player has played three matches in the minor rounds (or in draws of 14 rounds or more, five matches) for any one team, that player is deemed tied to that team

and cannot play with any other team during that season. Teams are accepted as nominated, and not subject to balanced selection by the Pennant Committee, then that substitute player is eligible for finals matches. Where all teams are selected by the Pennant Committee then that player must fulfil any special requirements of the Committee which may be listed on the Entry Form or publish at the start of the season (plus all handicap requirements).

- 16.3 Where balanced teams have been selected by the Pennant Committee prior permission must be obtained if either one eligible substitute player in a 2 person team or two substitute players in a 3 person team are to play in any one finals team. That prior permission must be obtained from the Pennant Committee. In the event there is not one regular team member available to play for a final it will be an automatic forfeit.
- 16.4 In exceptional circumstances the Pennant Committee may allow a player to become eligible after having played less than three matches for the team concerned. Notice in writing detailing circumstances must be given to the Committee at least seven days prior to the match for which approval is sought.
- 16.5 A walkover, but not a bye, shall count as a match. However, for a walkover to count as part of eligibility for finals, the players' names must appear on the score sheet.
- 16.6 Awards for finals teams will vary from season to season according to team formats.

17 Withdrawals

- 17.1 If a team withdraws or is disqualified before a full round has been played, then all of its matches will become byes.
- 17.2 Where a team withdraws during the first round of a pennant season, all match results involving the withdrawn team shall be cancelled and opposing team shall be credited with the results of a bye.
- 17.3 If a team withdraws or is disqualified after a full round has been played, then all matches and individual rubber scores will stand for the completed round/s only. Any matches played after the end of the completed round/s will be declared byes.
- 17.4 A penalty fine equal to the team pennant fee shall be imposed on any team withdrawing after the draw has been completed for the pennant season, irrespective of the time at which a team withdraws from the pennant season. This penalty may be waived by the Pennant Committee in exceptional circumstances, upon written notice submitted to the Pennant Secretary by the team affected.
- 17.5 Where a player withdraws from a team after the draw has been completed for the pennant season, such said person remains liable for any outstanding pennant fees that the said player, or the team, may still owe. This penalty may be waived by the Board of Directors in exceptional circumstances, upon written notice submitted to the Pennant Secretary by the player affected.

17.6 The Board of Directors shall have the power to vary the requirements of this Regulation by providing written notice to the teams affected.

18 Times of Play and Penalties

18.1 All pennant matches shall commence at the advertised time on the entry form.

18.2 If no member of one team is ready to commence play within 30 minutes of the advertised start time then the team present shall claim a walkover (see also rule 16.5).

18.3 In the event of one or more players not being ready to commence their matches by the advertised start time, then rubbers shall be forfeited in the following manner

15 minutes 1st rubber forfeited

25 minutes 2nd rubber forfeited

30 minutes walkover is awarded

18.4 For other matches with a different agreed starting time, then the same time lapses shall apply.

18.5 Where, in the opinion of the Duty Officer, a pennant match will extend beyond a reasonable time from the scheduled start, that person is empowered to inform the captains of both teams that the match must be played on two or more tables. If one of the captains refuses to carry out such instructions then that team shall forfeit any rubbers which are not completed by that reasonable time.

18.6 If commencement of play is delayed in any match, the offending team should be reported to the Duty Officer who may apply rule 18.3 if the reason for the delay is not considered reasonable.

18.7 In certain circumstances where deemed necessary the Duty Officer will implement the expedite system in Pennant matches (also refer rule 30.4) which initiates after ten minutes of play in any one game provided 18 points have not been scored, then the next point is decided on the thirteenth return. Once introduced the expedite system will remain until the end of the match.

19 Playing Equipment

19.1 Unless otherwise arranged, the MFTTA shall supply a new currently approved ball for all fixture matches.

19.2 The ball(s) for use in all MFTTA competitions or tournaments shall be decided by the Pennant Committee provided it is a ball approved by the ITTF.

19.3 All clothing must comply with ITTF regulations 3.2.2.

19.4 The Racket must comply with ITTF regulations 2.4. In the event of difficulties then the Duty Officer will act as referee and adjudicate accordingly.

19.5 In the event of damage to any part of the table, net, floor, side barriers, side and rear netting then that person responsible for such damage must report the damage to the Duty Officer. In the event of no Duty Person being available, then the report must be made to a Pennant Committee person by telephone at the earliest opportunity.

20 Results of Pennant Matches

20.1 A player from each team must sign the score sheet at the completion of the pennant match, and pay particular attention that all rubbers, games and individual totals are correctly recorded.

20.2 At the conclusion of each match, a player from the home team shall place the result sheet in the result box.

20.3 In the event of a walkover, a player of the team present on the night shall place in the result box a completed score sheet showing the walkover and the team players present. Failure to lodge a 'Walkover' score sheet will result in NO points for both teams.

21 Protests

21.1 All protests must be made in writing by the captain of the protesting team and forwarded to reach the pennant secretary, together with the grounds for such protest, within three days of the date of the protested event. The match must be played out to completion and the score sheet signed 'Under Protest'.

21.2 The protesting team shall also forward to the opposing team a duplicate copy of the protest within three days of the date of the protested event.

21.3 Such protest shall be considered by the Pennant Committee, and the result of the protest will be communicated to both teams prior to the date on which the next match would be played.

21.4 When such protest is open for discussion, any member of the Pennant Committee who is a member of one of the teams involved shall refrain from voting.

21.5 Representatives of the teams concerned in the protest shall be entitled to present their case. Any team or member not satisfied with the decision of the Pennant Committee may appeal to the Board of Directors.

21.6 The Board of Directors shall hear all appeals. A team or member can only appeal the judgement of the Pennant Committee where it can identify the judgement was in clear breach of the rules of the ITTF or the current MFTTA match rules and regulations. All appeals must be in writing setting the reason for the appeal and be delivered to the MFTTA Secretary within 21 days of the Pennant Committee judgement. A

representative (or representatives as deemed necessary) has the right to present the appellants case at the Board of Directors meeting when the appeal is being heard.

21.7 The Board of Directors decision will be final.

22 Referees and Umpires

22.1 A Duty Officer shall be in attendance at the MFTTA stadium on each night of pennant competition. This person's duties will be:

- a) Ensure that correct attire is worn by all players
- b) Ensure that a proper standard of behaviour is maintained by all players.
- c) Adjudicate in disputes.
- d) Maintain the relevant rules and regulations.
- e) Report any player who is guilty of misconduct, misbehaviour, misdemeanour, or otherwise has tended to bring the sport and or the MFTTA into disrepute.

22.2 Umpires shall be appointed for each match alternatively by the teams competing.

22.3 The decision of the scoring umpire shall be final on any question during a game, provided always that the Duty Officer may be approached for adjudication on points of law.

22.4 It is the scoring umpires sole right to, call a let during a game, however a player may ask the umpire for a decision if a let was not called when the player feels that it should have been, or if the umpire was unsighted at the time.

22.5 The Board of Directors shall appoint a panel of Duty Officers or Tournament Referees at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting in each year.

23 Interpretation

23.1 The interpretation of these Match Regulations shall devolve upon the Board of Directors of the Association, whose decision shall be final.

23.2 The Committee may issue Guidelines explaining the interpretation of a regulation - such guidelines shall have the same force as a Regulation contained in these Match Regulations.

23.3 The Board of Directors has the power to add to, subtract from, or modify these rules and regulations as it sees fit.

24 General Rules of Conduct

24.1 Food and drink is not permitted in the court area under any circumstances.

24.2 The stadium is a "Smoke Free Zone" as is the foyer area and Basketball Stadium.

24.3 Alcohol is not to be consumed within the stadium without the expressed permission of the Duty Officer.

24.4 Gluing or re-gluing of racket rubber is totally forbidden within the stadium.

25 Suspension of Play

25.1 Where a match is interrupted, suspended, or otherwise not completed due to power failures, or other such unforeseeable or uncontrollable circumstances, the Pennant Committee or the Board of Directors may direct that the match be continued to completion on an alternative date, or in some instances may declare a winner according to the state of the match at the time of abandonment.

26 Team Captain

26.1 Each team must select a Team Captain who shall be responsible for the team's compliance with the Match Regulations.

27 Order of Play

27.1 It is the responsibility of each Team Captain for collect and use the approved MFTTA official scoresheet.

27.2 The order of play in all matches shall follow the official scoresheet where the players on one side are denoted by the letters A, B (and in three person competitions the letter C) and the players on the other side are denoted by the letters X, Y (and in three person competitions the letter Z). In the doubles matches, one distinct pair shall not participate in more than one rubber.

27.3 The order of play on a night may be varied by mutual agreement of the Team Captains or by direction by the Board of Directors of the Association, or by the Referee.

28 Allocation of Team Lettering

28.1 In pennant fixtures, the "home" team (or first-mentioned team) is denoted by the letters A, B and C and the "away" team (or second-mentioned team) is denoted by the letters X, Y and Z.

28.2 In finals matches, the "home" team is deemed to be the team that finished the higher of the two teams participating at the completion of the pennant fixture rounds, and the "away" team is deemed to be the team that finished the lower of the two teams participating at the completion of the pennant fixture rounds. Accordingly, the "home" team is denoted by the letters A, B and C and the "away" team is denoted by the letters X, Y and Z.

29 Nomination of Players in Teams

29.1 Prior to the commencement of the first rubber of a match, each team shall allocate a letter to each of his or her players.

- 29.2 Prior to the commencement of each doubles rubber, each team shall nominate the playing pair and endorse it on the scoresheet.

30 Conduct of Matches

- 30.1 All pennant rubbers shall consist of the best of 3, 5 or 7 games. This may be varied by the Pennant Committee in handicap or other competitions. Details of such changes should normally be advised on the entry form.
- 30.2 Players are entitled to practise on the match table for up to 2 minutes immediately before the start of a rubber.
- 30.3 Play shall be continuous throughout a rubber except that a player shall be entitled to claim an interval of not more than 1 minute between successive games.
- 30.4 The expedite system shall be introduced in all matches by the Duty Officer, where deemed necessary.

31 Choice of Service or End

- 31.1 The right to choose the initial order of serving, receiving and ends shall be decided by lot and the winner may choose to serve or to receive first, or to start at a particular end. When a player has made the initial choice, the opponent shall have the other choice.
- 31.2 In each game of a doubles rubber, the pair having the right to serve first shall choose which of them will do so. Also in the first game of a rubber, the receiving pair shall decide which of them shall receive first. In subsequent games of a rubber, the first server having been chosen, the first receiver shall be the player who served to him or her in the preceding game.

32 Referee

- 32.1 A Referee (or acting Referee) shall be on duty at the main playing venue of the Association on all pennant competition nights to answer any questions or queries a member may have in relation to the conduct of the pennant competition.
- 32.2 All members of the Association must comply with any determination, direction or order given by the Referee (or acting Referee) pursuant to these Match Regulations - any failure to do so may render the member liable to penalty, including a fine and or loss of rubbers.

33 Umpires

- 33.1 In any two person competition the home team shall umpire the first two singles rubbers, and the away team umpire the following two singles rubbers. In three person competitions, the home team shall umpire the first rubber, and the away team shall umpire the second rubber, and this alternating order shall continue until the match is completed.

33.2 Where practicable, all rubbers must be umpired by a person other than a player involved in the rubber that is currently being played.

34 Transfer of Players

34.1 A player registered as a member of a team may transfer to a different team within the same grade subject to the approval of the Pennant Committee. However, an application for such transfer will not be considered by the Pennant Committee where the application is submitted to the Pennant Committee after the completion of the first round of matches (all teams having played each other once) of the pennant season.

35 Walkovers

35.1 A team receiving a walkover shall be credited with the maximum number of match points available, all rubbers, games and points.

35.2 Any team giving a walkover is required to notify the Team Captain of the opposing team and/or the Duty Officer as early as possible prior to the match.

35.3 In the event of a walkover, the team receiving the walkover is required to comply with the requirements set out in Regulation 20 (submit the match scoresheet). Failure to comply may result in a loss of match points and rubbers.

36. Finals Matches

36.1 Finals format for each Pennant season will be on entry forms.

(a) Held over 1 week or

(b) 2 weeks or more

(c) Finalists declared (i.e. Gold, Silver, Bronze or Winners & Runners-Up)

36.2 The Pennant Committee shall have the power to vary the requirements of this Regulation by providing written notice to the affected teams and or players.

37 Conduct of Finals Matches

37.1 All finals matches shall be played at the MFTTA Stadium Civic Reserve Recreation Centre, Dunns Rd, Mornington unless otherwise directed by the Board of Directors.

37.2 Finals matches shall be played on the night that the "home" team usually plays its matches unless otherwise directed by the Pennant Committee.

37.3 The result of all finals matches is determined by the first team reaching the required number of rubbers or points (depending on the format) - all remaining rubbers shall not be played by the teams.

38 Non-financial Players

- 38.1 During a pennant season, a player or team, having failed to meet payment of monies outstanding (including fines incurred), shall be considered ineligible to compete in finals matches, until such monies have been paid.
- 38.2 Any player or team, having failed to meet payment of monies outstanding (including fines incurred), shall be considered ineligible to play in any future pennants or competitions played under the jurisdiction of the Association, until such monies have been paid.

39. Clothing

- 39.1 All players must comply with ITTF requirements (ITTF Handbook regulation 3.2.2).
- 39.2 Appropriate footwear shall comprise athletic, soft-soled shoes that are non-marking.
- 39.3 The penalty for infringing this Regulation may include the loss of rubbers in which the offending player participated and/or a penalty fine as set by the Board of Directors from time to time.

40 Glue

- 40.1 Racket coverings may be attached to blades by means of pressure-sensitive adhesive sheets or ITTF approved adhesives; a player whose racket is found to contain a prohibited adhesive shall be disqualified from the competition.
- 40.2 The gluing of bats is forbidden at all times within the playing venue of the Association. Any player found guilty of violating this Regulation in any manner whatsoever is liable to the cancellation of all rubbers in which he or she participated in on the said night.

41 Service

- 41.1 When serving each player shall comply with ITTF regulation 2.6.

42 Behaviour

- 41.2 Players shall refrain from behaviour that may unfairly affect an opponent, may offend spectators or may bring the game into disrepute.
- 41.3 Where an umpire considers the conduct of a player is not of an acceptable standard, the umpire shall warn the player that any repetition is liable to incur a penalty point. If a player who has been warned commits a second offence in the same individual match or team match, the umpire shall award one point to the offender's opponent, and for a further offence two points. If a further offence occurs the umpire shall suspend play and report immediately to the referee.
- 41.4 The type of behaviour for which such penalties may be imposed includes, amongst other things, deliberate damage to equipment such as breaking the ball or hitting the table with a bat, bad language or excessive shouting, unfair delaying tactics such as

deliberately hitting the ball out of the playing area, disrespect of the umpire and persistent disregard of the regulations prohibiting advice during play.

- 41.5 A Referee may also report a player where the Referee considers the conduct of the member to be of an unacceptable standard. Any member found guilty as charged will incur a penalty imposed by the Committee pursuant to the Statement of Rules.

43 Advice to Players

- 43.1 A player may receive advice in between points (including coaching). Play must remain continuous.

44 Suspension of Play

- 44.1 It is the duty of the umpire to ensure that play throughout a match is continuous.
- 44.2 The umpire shall allow brief interruptions to the continuity of play for towelling after each six points, at the end of each game, and at the change of ends in the last possible game of match.
- 44.3 An umpire may allow a suspension of play if a player is temporarily incapacitated by an accident - however, a suspension shall not be allowed for a disability which was present at the beginning of a match, or where it is due to the normal stress of play including cramp or exhaustion.
- 44.4 In the event of a power failure or other circumstances necessitating a halt in play, all rubbers completed up to the time of cessation of play, shall stand. All teams shall await a direction from the Referee. If the match cannot be resumed, the completion of the match shall be held over to a date which shall be determined between the team captains and the Referee or Pennant Committee.

45 Awards

- 45.1 The leading player shall be the player who wins the most singles points, games and/or rubbers in the pennant fixture rounds, depending on the competition format.
- 45.2 In the event of two or more players finishing equal first, each player will be deemed equal leading player.
- 45.3 The Board of Directors reserves the right to provide other awards as it deems appropriate.

46 Annual Open Championships

- 46.1 The Association shall present annual Open Championships (e.g. Junior, Senior, Veterans), which shall be held on dates determined by the Board of Directors of the Association, or by its nominated Sub-Committee.
- 46.2 The Open Championships are open to all registered members of a Table Tennis Association (or similar body) within or outside Australia, provided the player has

completed the prescribed the Entry Form and submitted it within the prescribed time. All players wishing to be considered for seeding in events must submit their entry form to the Table Tennis Victoria Incorporated.

- 46.3 The Open Championships shall be controlled by a Referee, appointed from the Victoria Table Tennis Umpires League.