

THE STATUTE OF THE MALTA TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

PART ONE

1. Name of the Association

This Association shall be called the “Malta Table Tennis Association” and in this Statute and in the other rule and regulations of the Malta Table Tennis Association, the words or wording “MTTA”, “M.T.T.A.”, “the Association”, and “This Association”, shall mean the Malta Table Tennis Association.

2. Aims and Objectives

- (a) to promote, develop, control and regulate the game of table tennis in the Republic of Malta in the spirit of fair play and in conformity with its own Statute, and with its other rules and regulations as may in force be from time to time and with the statutes, bye-laws, rules and regulations of the ITTF and ETTU Statutes;
- (b) to organise competitions in association table tennis in all its forms and in all levels within the territory of the Republic of Malta as it may deem fit and proper, and to administer, control and exercise discipline over such competitions. And also to control and supervise all friendly table tennis matches of all forms played within the territory of the Republic of Malta;
- (c) to manage international sporting relations connected with association table tennis in all its forms and to take part in international competitions as it may determine;
- (d) to prevent all sorts of discrimination as to politics, gender, religion or race within the Association and its competitions as well as within its Members;
- (e) to protect the joint interest of its Members and to settle disputes between its Members, registered players, coaches, referees, umpires;
- (f) to ensure that all members, affiliated clubs, abide by the laws of the game as laid down by the International Table Tennis Federation;
- (g) to prevent the introduction of improper methods or practices in the game of association table tennis, to protect it from abuse and to punish those found guilty of having used improper methods or practices;
- (h) to own and/or administer and/or manage sports facilities and/or any other property needed to achieve its objectives;

- (i) to enter into any agreement and/or any kind of partnership with other parties for the promotion and the development of association table tennis or sports in general both locally and abroad;
- (j) to exploit in the best possible manner the audio-visual, sound broadcasting, advertising and merchandising rights, as well as any other rights of which it is legitimate owner, in relation to table tennis matches which fall under its jurisdiction and in relation to its own property or the property which it administers;
- (k) to manage and invest the monies and the other assets of the Association in an appropriate manner as it may determine;
- (l) to borrow and raise monies as it may determine; and
- (m) to consider and decide on all matters relating to the sport of association table tennis within its jurisdiction.

3. The Association is a non-profit making organisation

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Statute and in the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association, the Association is a non-profit making organisation. Thus, the Association shall not distribute any of its assets and/or dividends to its Members and any economic activity which it may carry out will be an ancillary activity for the purpose on in connection with assisting the Association to carry out its objectives and its mission in accordance with the provisions of this Statute.

4. Flag and emblem

The Association shall have its own flag and emblem. These shall be in that form as the Council of the Association may from time to time determine.

5. Official languages

The official languages of the Association are Maltese and English.

However, during General Meetings, Executive Council Meetings and Committee Meetings, as well as during the other official meetings of the Association, the Maltese language shall be used unless the Chairman of the Meeting decides that, for practical reasons, it is more convenient to use the English Language when dealing with a particular matter. It will be up to the person using any other language to provide translation into the Maltese or the English languages during official Meetings.

Rules, bye-laws, regulations, forms, notices, circulars and letters may be drawn up either in Maltese or English.

6. Recognition of the Malta Table Tennis Association

The Malta Table Tennis Association shall be recognised by all its Members, and by those entities, associations which the MTTA recognises as performing a role connected with association table tennis, as well as by its registered players, coaches, referees, umpires, as the only body which has the sole right to organise the sport of association table tennis in all its forms and to exercise control and discipline over association table tennis within the territory of the Republic of Malta and which has the right of sole representation of the sport of association table tennis both at national level and at international level. These shall also be subject to the provisions of the Statute and the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of Association as well as to the decision and directives of the competent authorities of the Association. Furthermore, these shall be subject to the provisions of the Statutes and the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the ITTF and ETTU as well as the directives and decisions of the competent authorities of ITTF and ETTU.

PART TWO -- AFFILIATION AND MEMBERSHIP

7. The Malta Table Tennis Association is a full member of the International Table Tennis Federation, European Table Tennis Union, Mediterranean Table Tennis Federation and the Malta Olympic Committee. It may also at its discretion seek membership or affiliation with other international bodies recognised by the ITTF.

All political clubs/organizations/associations/participating in the MTTA's activities shall be affiliated to the MTTA and shall provide the MTTA with basic information such as the date of AGM/EGM, the names, addresses of their elected President, Secretary and Treasurer. They shall also forward an up-to-date copy of their statute.

Only bona fide clubs and organisations / associations acceptable to the MTTA shall be affiliated.

MTTA is authorised to withdraw any affiliation if it does not receive such information within reasonable time.

8. Club Membership

All bona fide clubs or organisations applying for participation in the association's activities shall have to be affiliated to the Association at the latter's discretion.

9. Ordinary Membership

Membership in respect of any individuals registered with an affiliated club/team or organisation and/or attending a Government or Private School shall be proposed by the club secretary or official on the appropriate registration form. Other individuals, are also to be registered either as above or through a proposal by a current MTTA member who has been registered as such for at least one season.

10. Termination of Membership

(a) Resignation

All registered teams may terminate their membership with the Association at any time in the season, but will forfeit their deposit and become liable to any action the association can deem fit.

However bona fide players registered with such teams will continue to be eligible to take part only in the individual and doubles events held during the current season.

Notice of resignation must reach the Secretary General in writing at least three (3) days before their next competitive commitment.

(b) Defaulters

Any affiliated club or organization or ordinary member failing to settle outstanding bills due to the Association within two (2) months of a written request from the treasurer, shall 'ipso facto' cease to be a member of the association. Moreover any such clubs or organizations or members shall continue to be liable for the amount due even after severing connections with the Association. Legal action may also be taken in such cases. Such clubs or organization or members shall only be considered a new membership provided:

- (i) all outstanding dues are paid to the Association; and
- (ii) the relative applications are re-approved by the Executive Council; and
- (iii) any club reinstated to membership shall not participate in the MTTA activities for the current season

11. Registration and Validity

- (a) Registration must be duly renewed before expiry date.
- (b) Registrations must be made on the appropriate forms issued by the Association, must be sent to the secretary of the Association within the stipulated date thereon.

- (c) If a player registers for more than one club or organization during the course of the period of validity of registration, all registrations in the name of that player will be rendered null and void from the date when the case is brought to the attention of the association. The player will be suspended till the end of the season and will be liable to a fine not exceeding €23.29 .
- (d) National Leagues Rules will prevail as issued by the Executive Council before the start of the season.
- (e) Cases of alleged irregularities in the registration and transfer of players are the prerogatives of the Executive Council

12. Governing Body

- (a) The Association shall be governed by an Executive Council of not more than nine (9) members to be elected in accordance to article 13.

The association can also co-opt members with non voting powers in each of the following sub-committees:-

- (1) Local Leagues & Tournaments
 - (2) Youth & Schools
 - (3) Marketing, Communication & Media.
- (b) Only individuals who were members of the MTTA for the preceding three seasons are eligible to contest the election for the Executive Council.
 - (c) No more than two members can sit on the Executive Council of the MTTA that are involved in any organisation that profits from the sport in any way.
 - (d) If nominations are not received for the above Executive Council / sub-committees, the Association shall be governed by at least seven (7) members.

13. Executive Council

The Executive Council shall be elected every four (4) years at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The election shall be conducted in the following manner:

- (a) The Secretary General of the out-going Executive Council shall issue a circular to its members at least a fortnight before the day fixed for the elections, inviting nominations for election to the Executive Council;
- (b) Nominations must reach the Secretary General in writing, and must have a proposer and a seconder and must be countersigned by the nominated member;
- (c) Three scrutinizers who are members of the association but who are not contesting the elections, shall be nominated from the floor to conduct

the elections up to the final results according to the standard procedure

- (d) Immediately after the A.G.M. the newly elected members shall elect the following officials:-

President
Vice-President
Secretary General
Treasurer

- (e) The Executive Council may also at its discretion elect a Public Relations Officer, an Assistant Secretary and an Assistant Treasurer from its Executive Council.
- (f) The Executive Council may nominate up to three (3) co-opted members to help in the overall administration of the Association. These co-opted members are not to have voting powers.

14. Duties of the officers forming the Executive Council

- (a) The President shall be responsible for calling all meetings of the Executive Council and shall act as Chairman at Executive Council meetings and General Meetings.

He shall have unlimited authority over every question of order unless challenged or overruled by a majority of members present unless otherwise stated. In the case of parity of votes the President shall have a casting vote in addition to his ordinary vote.

The President shall be responsible for the general observance of the Association's rules. In his absence the Vice- President shall act in his stead.

- (b) The Secretary General has the duty to convene meetings, keep the minutes of such meetings and the correspondence of the Association. Together with the President, the Secretary General prepares the agenda of each meeting. At the last Executive Council meeting prior to A.G.M. the Secretary general shall present a report on the activities of the association during the previous season. He shall then read this report at the A.G.M. The Assistant Secretary will help the Secretary General in his Work.
- (c) The Treasurer shall deal in all matters involving the funds of the Association and keep proper books of account. He shall maintain an account with a bank. He shall duly inform the Executive Council whenever a club or organization or a member fails to pay the fees after a lapse of two months.

He shall present an updated list of all duly paid clubs, organizations and members, who shall be the only ones eligible to contest the Executive Council's elections, vote or take part in the discussions during the A.G.M. after every competition he shall furnish the Executive Council with a detailed statement of all receipts and payments. At the A.G.M. he shall submit a statement of accounts duly audited.

All cheques shall be signed by any two from the Treasurer, President or Vice- President. The Treasurer together with the President shall keep an inventory of the assets belonging to the Association.

The Treasurer shall be the chairman of any fund raising sub-committee. The assistant treasurer will act as his deputy.

- (d) The Public Relations Officer shall publicise and promote the Association's activities with other bodies as detailed by the Executive Council.

15. Annual General Meeting / Extraordinary General Meeting

- (a) The AGM/EGM shall be held between March and June after the issue of the relative notice by the Secretary General, to all clubs/teams and relative members, which notice must be sent at least a fortnight before the day scheduled for the AGM.
- (b) All those MTTA members who have attained the age of 16 years during the current year in which an AGM/EGM is held and who have been members during the preceding three seasons shall be eligible to vote at such AGM/EGM

The agenda to the A.G.M. shall be

1. Reading of the minutes
2. President's Address
3. Administrative Report
4. Statement of accounts
5. Amendment to the statute
6. Election of the Council Members
7. Appointment of Auditor

- (c) 'Quorum' and "Amendments" see "General Meetings Article 16".

16. General Meetings

- (a) The Executive Council shall have the power to call at any time a General Meeting.
- (b) The Secretary General shall circulate the agenda of the Extraordinary General Meeting at least eight (8) days before the scheduled date.
- (c) Convening: Not less than six (6) affiliated clubs / organizations / associations / teams may request the Secretary General to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting, stating the purpose for such a meeting. The Secretary General shall then call such a meeting not later than fifteen (15) days from the date of request.
- (d) Quorum: Two-thirds (2/3) of the voting clubs/teams shall form a quorum at

General Meetings. In the absence of such a quorum, the meeting shall be held fifteen (15) minutes later, irrespective of the number of members present.

When however the meeting is convened at the request of affiliated clubs or organizations or ordinary members, then there must be a quorum of not less than twenty-five (25) voting clubs/teams excluding Executive Council Members. Failing this quorum, the meeting shall be postponed to a later date and the matter considered abandoned if a quorum is not again formed at such a subsequent meeting.

- (e) Voting: All matters at General Meetings shall be decided by majority vote, unless stated otherwise in these rules.

Each directly affiliated club as per rule 3 (a) may send up to two members with power to vote.

Those clubs with over fifty M.T.F. registered players may send up to a maximum of three members with power to vote.

- (f) Amendments to the Statute: Any proposals for amendments to the Statute must be seconded by two members. Such proposals shall be made only in writing and must reach the Secretary General at least eight (8) days before the General Meeting.
- (g) Additions or amendments to the rules shall be made at a General Meeting convened for this purpose or at the A.G.M. on a majority vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members present.

17. Authority for the interpretation of the rules

The Executive Council shall be the authority for the interpretation of these statutory regulations and its decisions upon any matter of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the Association shall be final.

18. Appointment of sub-committees

The Executive Council may appoint any sub-committee as may be considered necessary. An Executive Council member shall be an “ex-officio” member of each sub-committee.

19. Appointment of Appeals Board

The Council shall appoint an “Appeals Board” at the beginning of the playing season, which shall be composed of three (3) neutral persons nominated by the Executive Council.

This Board shall hear all appeals against the Executive’s decisions submitted before it by a club or organization or member.

All appeals have to be submitted in writing, and sent by registered mail to the secretary General, with a deposit of Lm5.00, within eight (8) days from the

Council's decision. If the appeal is upheld the deposit will be refunded.

20. Misconduct

The Executive Council shall have the power to expel from the Association or deal in any other manner it may deem fit, any club or organization or member who brings or tries to bring the Game or the Association into disrepute or whose conduct is in any way inconsistent with the objectives of the Association.

Such club, organization or member shall however have the right to appeal against the Executive Council's decision to the Appeals Board within eight (8) days of such a decision.

21. Administration

- (a) No affiliated club or organisation or ordinary member without the prior approval of the Association:
 - (i) May take part on the subject of Table Tennis on the Media; or
 - (ii) May participate in any activities organised by non-affiliated clubs or organisations or individuals; or
 - (iii) May organise Table Tennis activities for non-affiliated clubs or organisations; or
 - (iv) May take part in any publicity and/or sponsorship scheme
- (b) No Open Tournaments may be held without the sanction of the Association. All competitors, and clubs, or organizations participating in such tournaments, must be affiliated with the Association.

22. Financial Year

The financial year of the Association shall end on the 31st December and audited statements of accounts up to and including this date shall be presented to the A.G.M.

23. Age Limits

In all competitions organised by the Association or by the affiliated club or organization, the age limit for Juniors under 17 & Cadets under 14 shall be as per I.T.T.F. regulations

24. Dissolution

The Association can only be dissolved at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the express purpose and circulated at least fifteen days (15) prior to the date of the said meeting. The quorum for this E.G.M. required for the dissolution of the Association must be of seventy-five per cent (75%) of affiliated members.

An Independent liquidator shall be appointed by the E.G.M. to realize all the assets and pay all liabilities of the Association. Any remaining assets are to be

donated to any charitable institution as decided by the E.G.M.

25. Matters not covered by the Statute

In the event of any questions on matters arising which are not provided for in this Statute, then such matters and any related questions shall be dealt with by the Executive Council, whose decision shall be final.