

WEST MIDLANDS TABLE TENNIS DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION

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What is it and what's it about?

For too long now table tennis has concentrated its efforts on competitions for the established players. The only competitions a new player is offered are a local team competition or open tournaments, both of which require player and/or parental commitment and are often daunting. The result is that too many people who come to our clubs for coaching fall through the net.

Children, especially thrive on competition. It matters little how good they are or how long they have been playing table tennis. Unless we give them competitions that they can enjoy at a very early stage we won't get that vital commitment. Without commitment coaching becomes meaningless and youngsters will drift away to take up other sports that satisfy their competitive needs.

So what are the benefits of this competition?

- (1) It offers the real beginner lots of games - at their own level - in a local competition - at a reasonable cost.
- (2) Unlike team competitions an individual's lack of commitment does not directly affect anyone else.
- (3) It enables coaches to recognize and monitor a player's potential at a very early stage.
- (4) Most important of all it gives a player a reason for a commitment to being coached.

SO HOW DOES IT WORK

- ❖ A maximum of 20 Tournaments, 5 Local Area Tournaments spread around the West Midlands. Running from October until April
- ❖ The top 24 players from each series(the top four from each group/band) of Local Area Tournaments being invited to take part in the West Midlands Grand Final Tournament that is held during the following month.

Tournament Structure

- A) A singles competition designed to provide competitive play for all levels of ability.
- B) All matches are played on a group system. Each player plays in a large group in round one. Play may be in a one or more large groups. If there is more than one group in a section then players move on to play round two as a set of knockouts or smaller groups which give overall position for the tournament and gain qualification points.
- C) The aim is to give players a minimum of 5 matches in a day at a reasonable cost and without the need to travel long distances.
- D) Each tournament, players are grouped by age and ability.

Sections: under 13, under 15 and under 18/Adult

Bands: Novice and Intermediate.

- E) Initially we have to rely on the information given on a players entry form plus, if available, a report from their coach. Once a Player has taken part, they may be moved to a more appropriate band after their first event. If this move is to a higher Band then half the points attained in the lower band will be carried forward, for a move to a lower band then twice the points attained in the higher band will be carried forward.
- F) A Rating List will be issued after each series of tournaments. There are Rating Lists for Adult/Under 18, Under 15 and Under 13 in both novice and intermediate categories. There will therefore be six separate lists and the top 4 players in each list from each local area competition will be invited to the Regional Finals in early June at Wood Green

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Points Table	
1st	55
2nd	50
3rd	47
4th	44
5th	41
6th	38
7th	35
8th	32
9th	29
10th	27
11th	25
12th	23
13th	21
14th	19
15th	17
16th	15
17th	14
18th	13
19th	12
20th	11
21st	10
22nd	9
23rd	8
24th	7
25th	6
26th	5
27th	4
28th	3
29th	2
30 th or greater	1

Where a player finishes for example 3rd/4th then the 3rd place and 4th placed points are added together and then halved $47+44 = 91 = 45.5 = 46$