



## Grand Prix competition & prize money restructure announced

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The Grand Prix series has undergone a restructure – with prize money now up for grabs in every category.

The move follows a detailed review of the competition, which highlighted a severe shortage of officials available to run eight events, in particular referees.

As a result, a number of key changes have been made, including:

- A reduction in the number of events from eight to five
- Removing the end of year prize money and distributing it across the five events – making each a stand-alone competition
- Increased prize money at each event with the winners of open singles taking £500
- The introduction of prize money for every category – including banded events.
- A simplified pricing strategy
- Banded events entry fee reduced by £6

The review also addressed player views about entry fees, and in order to transparent about the cost of the Grand Prix series, we will be publishing the financial information from the 2017/18 season shortly.

Carol Miles, Competition and Event Manager, commented: “One of the key pieces of feedback we get from members is that the cost of the Grand Prix series is too much.

“However, the competition isn’t a profit-maker for Table Tennis England, and only just breaks even without including staff time and outsourcing costs.

“We have evaluated fees and restructured them, allowing us to reduce entry fees for banded events by £6 each.

“As a result we expect most players to save money and benefit from reduced overall entry fees.

“We are also exploring localised sponsorship options, which if successful would increase the prize money.

“Anyone interesting in sponsoring any Grand Prix is welcome to get in touch.”

The new structure will also see events spread geographically and time-wise to avoid a repeat of last season where four Grand Prix fell in eight weeks. Details of dates and locations will be announced later this month. However, please be aware that no Grand Prix will take place in August due to the unavailability of referees and venue.

While current referees have agreed to support the new five-event format, Table Tennis England is still appealing for more officials to come forward.

Carol said: “We are very grateful for all the officials that give their time, but a large burden is falling on this small population and we need more people to come forward, especially referees, to enable us to continue delivering national events.

“Table Tennis England is currently developing a programme to support the development of more officials, and we urge players and supporters to consider completing an official’s course and help support our sport.”

To find out more about officiating courses, click here. <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/coach/officials/>

## Prize Money Distribution for 2018/19

Placing	1	2	3	4	Total
MS	500	250	100	100	£950.00
WS	500	250	100	100	£950.00
MB1	130	60			£190.00
MB2	65	30			£95.00
MB3	65	30			£95.00
MB4	65	30			£95.00
MB5	65	30			£95.00
MB6	65	30			£95.00
WB1	130	60			£190.00
WB2	65	30			£95.00
WB3	65	30			£95.00
WB4	65	30			£95.00
MU21	65	30			£95.00
WU21	65	30			£95.00
MXDV	65	30			£95.00
DOUBLES	65	30			£190.00
TOTAL					£3,420.00

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