

Creating a partnership

Setting-up a partnership with your local table tennis club can be straightforward with the help of the Youth Sport Trust and ETTA. Each partner has clearly defined roles and responsibilities to make the relationship easy to manage and sustainable.

Key roles and responsibilities for:

Schools

Enter into an agreement for use of your sports facilities, ideally for 38–50 weeks of the year, with your local table tennis community club.

Have one point of contact regarding the use of the sports hall in out-of-school hours to reduce administration and assist with security/access.

Review where curriculum links can be made.

Aim to establish school clubs and satellite clubs in table tennis with a clear link to the community club.

Explore leadership and volunteering opportunities with the club

Community table tennis club

Have a formal link with the school and support the school staff to increase participation and performance opportunities for pupils in table tennis.

Have a clear development plan for engaging young people.

Develop a club social programme to make it attractive to a wide range of people.

Take responsibility for managing access and use of the facility in line with the agreed terms of the school. This may include opening and locking the facilities.

Look to establish school clubs and satellite clubs in table tennis.

Look to deploy young leaders and volunteers from the schools.

Youth Sport Trust and ETTA

Act as a liaison between schools and community club.

Bring partners together to explore and discuss learning from the project.

Youth Sport Trust

The Youth Sport Trust is an independent charity, established in 1994 to build a brighter future for young people through PE and sport. We are led by a clear and driving vision – to improve both the quantity and quality of PE in schools and to inspire and engage all young people in sporting activity – whether it's leading, coaching, learning, competing, playing or volunteering.

www.youthsporttrust.org

English Table Tennis Association

The English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) is the sport's governing body in England, based in Hastings, East Sussex with the National Table Tennis Centre at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. The organisation works across nine key areas identified within its whole sport plan: club development, facilities, coaching, volunteers, children and young people, adults 16+, marketing and communications and competitions. It is responsible for the management and training of the elite England squad and co-ordinates a development network that provides a pathway for aspiring players to progress from schools and clubs to the national squad. In addition, the governing body offers information about the game, runs coaching courses, tournaments from county to international standard, sells books and videos and promotes the sport at all levels.

Many categories of membership are available including school club affiliation. Under the direction of the chief executive who in turn reports to the board, the English Table Tennis Association work through nine regional development managers and regional coaches to provide support to the table tennis community including clubs and league structures.

www.etta.co.uk

TABLE TENNIS JOINT SPORTS HALL PROSPECTUS



56 per cent of school sport facilities are not open after 5pm

The early closing time of many school sports facilities implies that sports clubs are unable to take advantage of fit-for-purpose facilities to run their activity. This provides challenges around participation in sports and school-club links.

Research by the Sport & Recreation Alliance (formerly CCPR) and individual National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) have shown that school facilities are often underutilised. In some instances this stems from a number of key challenges such as the lack of financial investment or issues concerning access during out-of-school hours. The Youth Sport Trust (YST) and the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) are looking to work with schools to overcome these challenges and make school sport facilities more accessible to sports clubs.

Table tennis in your school

Like all sports there are a number of requirements that a table tennis club would like to work towards:

- FLOORING: Semi sprung strip timber or PVC (Taraflex)
- LIGHTING: Effective lighting, 300-500 lux
- WALL COLOUR: Contrasting wall colour, for easy site of the ball in play
- HEATING: Good heating and humidity control
- STORAGE: Suitable area for storage of equipment
- EQUIPMENT: Ideally the club and school should be responsible for their own good quality equipment that can be brought together for competitions.
- CHANGING FACILITIES: Changing and shower facilities with disabled access
- ACCESS: Regular access to the venue for coaching and competition, midweek and if possible, some weekends
- OFFICE: Meeting room adjacent to the hall that can be used by club officials
- SOCIAL: Notice Board and access to refreshments
- ADDITIONAL: Viewing area with movable seating.

It is also recommended that there is a simply worded service level agreement, that clearly outlines and identifies:

- the role of the club and school
- access times for the club and coaching sessions
- agreed hire costs
- agreed period of tenure for the club.

It is important that costs are realistic but not prohibitive for the club. School and club need to work effectively together to support each others needs.

<http://etta.tv/development>

Positioning schools as a community resource

Schools are most effective when strongly linked to the community they serve. Schools that engage parents and work with a range of external partners build social, capital and cohesion in their communities, as well as raising standards.

ETTA, in partnership with schools and the Youth Sport Trust, would like to explore the use of school sport halls in achieving Sport England's strategy and target, to increase the number of active participants by an additional one million people by 2012. By working with a number of schools, the Youth Sport Trust and ETTA, aim to provide a toolkit for schools and NGBs that contains case studies and suggested models of working with community clubs.

The toolkit will look to capture relationships between community clubs and school sites and will demonstrate how both parties can benefit through long-lasting and stable partnerships, including those with local business. The toolkit will explore the use of school facilities and how effective utilisation can help all partners achieve key targets, with the specific aim of:

- working with selected schools to identify best practice in terms of models and approaches used to support relationships between table tennis clubs and school sports facilities
- developing a framework of good practice for clubs and schools that ensure facilities are utilised effectively to support school to club links.



Reap the reward

There are a number of benefits for all involved parties. For schools some of the key benefits to hosting a table tennis club on your premises are:

- access to a network of local sport coaches with the potential to access specialist coaching during curriculum time
- a community club to promote the school
- the potential to reduce operating costs with a reliable tenant
- increased 'ownership' by the local community
- increase participation beyond the curriculum through school and satellite clubs
- development of young table tennis leaders and volunteers with appropriate deployment opportunities
- a supported route for young people to enter into recreational and competitive structures.

Equally, there are benefits for table tennis clubs:

- increased access to high quality facilities, suitable for coach and/or volunteer training sessions
- potential to increase membership numbers
- supports the vision of a 'community club' in a community setting
- access to junior members especially with the creation of school and satellite clubs
- the ability to encourage young leaders and volunteers to be involved.

“It is vital that we help to continue to build our communities so that young people engage in activities both in, and out of, school time. Sport has always been a major success driver and is an excellent tool for engagement.”

Pank Patel, Headteacher
Wood Green High School College of
Sport Maths and Computing

“School and table tennis working together has enabled young people to become more active citizens and helped develop long-term benefits for the local community. It has helped focus young minds on active pursuits. It has also helped develop more healthy lifestyles and build a greater sense of community.”

John Blackband, Chairman
Wood Green Table Tennis Club