

Regional Championships Competition



Introduction

Following recommendation from the Competition Review group, the regional qualification framework for the National Championships at Junior level and below will cease to exist. This change will create a gap in the competition pathway for athletes below the top level of competition and at the same time will remove a competition for regional associations to organise.

The new Regional Championships Competition addresses this and aligns with the new performance structure ensuring that athletes earn the right to compete at higher tiers.

Phase one

Regional Closed Championships

Each region will run a Regional Closed Championships. In 2015/16 the dates set as 20th & 21st February 2016. Regions will be required to run the following six event categories: Under 11 Boys' Singles, Under 11 Girls' Singles, Under 13 Boys' Singles, Under 13 Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles and Cadet Girls' Singles.

The regions may choose to run additional events (doubles, Junior age group etc.) at their discretion, but the second phase will only include the above mentioned categories as well as team events in each of the age groups.

Athletes listed within the top 20 (boys) and top 15 (girls) on the Table Tennis England ranking list one month prior to the Regional Closed Championships will be ineligible for this level of competition.

Guidance on format for the Regional Closed Championships will be provided to the Regional Associations by the Table Tennis England Competitions & Events department.

Phase two

Inter-Regional Championships

Following their Regional Closed Championships, each region will nominate a team from each of the six event categories to compete in the Inter-Regional Championships. In 2015/16 the dates are set as 21st & 22nd May 2016. This event will be run and managed by the Table Tennis England Competitions & Events Department.

Regions will also be responsible for bringing a suitably qualified umpire to help officiate matches.

Each team will consist of three or four players (minimum of three but region may wish to select a fourth member or "reserve"). Two of the places should be filled by the finalists of their respective age group with the third and fourth players being selected at the discretion of the Regional Selectors. Should any athlete reach the top 10 of the Table Tennis England ranking list one month prior to the Inter-Regional Championships, they will also become ineligible for this competition. If this happens then regions should select an appropriate replacement.

The team event will be played in the Corbillon Cup system of 4 singles and 1 doubles (best of 5 matches) which states "The order of play shall be A v X, B v Y, doubles, A v Y, B v X".

Regions will be split into two groups of five, with the winners from each group progressing to play in a final.

Teams must nominate playing positions (AB or XY) before each match. The doubles pairings can be decided at the conclusion of the first 2 singles.

The Inter-Regional Championships is primarily a team event, but will also host a singles event in each age group. The singles event will consist of 32 players in each of the six event categories. Regions will select three

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players (from those that competed in the team event) that are guaranteed a place in the draw. If they want a fourth member to enter they must be nominated and a random draw will be conducted to fill the 2 remaining places. Eight groups of four will play off with the top two progressing to the knockout stages. All matches best of 5.

*Please note: Players may only enter one age group of the Inter-Regional Championships in both the team and singles events. Should a player qualify for more than one age group, the regional selectors and player should come to an agreement on which event they will enter.