



ASSOCIATION OPEN REQUIREMENTS

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1 - INTRODUCTION

This document is produced by TTQ to assist clubs choosing formats for running tournaments, and is subject to continuing development. It contains minimum requirements and suggestions to encourage a broader variety of formats for events in regional tournaments throughout Queensland.

2 - TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

Each year three separate State Championships are held: a Seniors; Juniors; and Veterans. Each of these tournaments has both team and individual competitions and they provide selectors with an opportunity to assess players before selection of the state teams. An Open State Championships is also conducted annually.

TTQ coordinates invitational tournaments, when the opportunity arises, for the promotion of table tennis and to provide more high level competition for elite players.

The member clubs / associations hold tournaments, which, subject to endorsement by the TTQ Board, form the remainder of the calendar. The member clubs decide on the format for each tournament and may run multiple tournaments with different formats.

TTQ encourages clubs to host tournaments to include male & female events to provide selectors with more information to select state teams. TTQ encourages clubs to host their tournaments across the whole year, where possible.

3 - GENERAL ISSUES

It is recommended that Clubs consider the following critical issues when designing tournaments.

3.1 - MINIMUM NUMBER OF MATCHES

The straight Knockout format causes many players to play only one match. This discourages players; particularly new players who tend to enter only one or two events, from attending tournaments. Round robins provide at least a second match. These can be fitted into the time frame of the tournament by decreasing the number of events or limiting the number of players in each round robin group to three or four players. Decreasing the number of events, whilst providing round robins, also means that players are less likely to have to wait long periods for another event to commence. It is easier to keep a tournament on schedule with fewer events, even if they are round robin.

TTQ recommends that clubs try to include small round robin groups in the first round of singles events. It may be best to leave normal doubles events as knockout.

3.2 - SCHEDULE A TIME FOR ALL EVENTS

The second major reason for dissatisfaction with tournaments is having to wait a long time to play after the event is scheduled to start. It is important that every event should have a specific starting time. Some events may still start late but at least players will have a better idea of when they are likely to play.

Events should only be scheduled to start within the same hour if entry is exclusive eg Over 40s and Under 20s. It is useful to schedule the stronger events first because players in multiple events are more likely to lose in the stronger event.

3.3 - MAKE NEW PLAYERS FEEL COMFORTABLE

All officials and experienced players should keep a look out for new players and introduce themselves. They may appreciate explanation as to how the tournament is run as well as other aspects of table tennis.

3.4 - COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ASSOCIATIONS

Coordination of travel arrangements and billeting of players from other Associations can have important benefits including:

- encouraging a larger group of players to travel together;
- reducing costs;
- increasing social interaction;
- increasing team spirit; and
- opening discussion on ways to improve tournaments.

3.5 - MORE SUPPORT FROM LOCAL PLAYERS

Find out what will make your local players participate. This may involve different formats, but give them a try. Perhaps attaching social events to tournaments may encourage them.

4 - SPECIFIC FORMAT ISSUES

4.1 - OPEN EVENTS

It is compulsory that all Associations hold the following open events:

- Men's or Open Singles
- Women's Singles
- Men's Doubles
- Women's Doubles
- Mixed Doubles

4.2 - RATED EVENTS (OPTIONAL)

TTQ recommends the following terminology and ratings cut-offs for graded events:

Open -	Any Rating
Grade 1 -	Players with a rating less than 1700
Grade 2 -	Players with a rating less than 1500
Grade 3 -	Players with a rating less than 1300
Grade 4 -	Players with a rating less than 1100
Grade 5 -	Players with a rating less than 900
Grade 6 -	Players with a rating less than 700
Grade 6 -	Players with a rating less than 500

For players with no current rating, the player's member organisation should be contacted for an interim rating. These graded events can be single gender or mixed depending upon the level of entries – this is entirely the decision of the organisation running the championships.

4.3 - AGED EVENTS

It is compulsory to host all aged singles events at an Open Championship, to allow greater variety of events.

These are:

- Under 11
- Under 13
- Under 15
- Under 18
- Under 21
- Over 30
- Over 40
- Over 50
- Over 60
- Over 70

Male and Female events are to be offered in these age groups. Male & Female events may be combined if there are insufficient entries. If the events are combined, it is recommended that the gender which has the least number of entries are placed in the same group in the group stage, prior to the knock-out draw.

5 – ASSOCIATION EXPECTATIONS

All Associations that coordinate an Association open will complete the following requirements:

- Send a copy of the Entry Form to Table Tennis Queensland for approval prior to distribution
- Ensure all Queensland participants are members of Table Tennis Queensland at club level
- Ensure that all interstate/international participants are members of their sporting bodies
- Email the full results to TTQ in suitable electronic format within 7 days of the event
- Email a summary of results winners to TTQ within 7 days of the event
- Submit the complete set of singles results (individual and team events) to Ratings Central within 7 days of the event, using either Zermelo or Cantor

6 - COMPETITION FORMATS

Please refer to Bylaw Appendix 24 'Competition Formats' for example formats to be used at association open tournaments.