

# TABLE TENNIS WELLINGTON



## 2011 CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to ensure that the game of table tennis is conducted in a manner where it is enjoyed by all participants; the contest is competitive and fair to all parties.

This Code of Conduct will apply to all interclub matches, tournaments and training sessions conducted under the jurisdiction of **Table Tennis Wellington Inc (TTW)**. All players, while representing Table Tennis Wellington, will be expected to abide by the individual conduct provisions of this Code of Conduct. Spectators are also asked to abide by the principles of this Code of Conduct or they will be asked to leave the venue/s.

### **General**

Players and spectators shall not engage in any conduct that will prejudice or affect the integrity of the game of table tennis or the enjoyment of the game, and shall at all times be mindful that their conduct must be fair. This Code of Conduct will apply in any of the stadiums controlled at the time by TTW.

Offences will be noted and the penalties applied as prescribed by this Code of Conduct. Matters related to this code should be reported immediately to the TTW referee/duty official, who will make a decision that will be binding on all parties. There will be no right of appeal against the decision of the TTW referee/duty official.

Failure to comply with the decision of the TTW referee/duty official shall result in automatic default.

Where an offence is deemed serious enough it will be dealt with under the provisions of Section 8 of the TTW Constitution covering 'Membership – Obligations and Misconduct'.

### **TTW Referee/Duty Official**

TTW will appoint a referee/duty official for all interclub matches, tournaments and training sessions. All persons officiating as TTW referees/duty officials shall have the power to implement this Code of Conduct, on behalf of TTW.

TTW referees/duty officials will generally be persons not participating in play. Where players are appointed as TTW referees/duty officials, there will be more than one on duty, so that the TTW referee/duty official shall not be required to make rulings related to his/her own matches or those of their team mates.

### **General Rules**

- Players may not leave the table or playing area during a match, without the permission of the table umpire or TTW referee/duty official.
  - **Penalty: Players contravening this rule default the match.**
- Players shall commence the match without unreasonable delay and generally after a warm up period of 2 minutes. Thereafter play shall be continuous, as provided for in the rules of table tennis.
- Players shall change ends within the prescribed 2 minutes, from the time the ball is out of play, to the time until the ball is served for the first point of the next game.
- Players shall dress and present themselves in approved table tennis attire and use approved equipment (TTNZ/ITTF rules).
  - Clean and acceptable attire must be worn at all times during match play. Doubts on dress or equipment must be resolved with the TTW referee/duty official, before the player goes to the table. Tops must comply with the laws of table tennis regarding the colour and width of any white stripes. Shorts, skirts and trousers should be of a dark colour, without wide white stripes.
  - Footwear must be non-marking table tennis or other sports shoes.
  - **Penalty: Players improperly dressed shall generally not be permitted to play.**

- Players shall behave at all times in a sportsmanlike manner, and give due regard to the rights of opponents, spectators and others.
- They shall abide by the decisions of the TTW referee/duty official, in all matters.
- They shall refrain from behaviour or mannerisms that might unfairly affect an opponent, may offend spectators or bring the game into disrepute.
- Players shall not, at any time physically abuse an official, spectator or other person within the premises or competition area. Likewise, spectators shall not, at any time and in any way, abuse an official, spectator or other person within the premises or competition area.

### **Tournament specific rule**

- Matches shall follow each other without delay, in accordance with the scheduled order of play.
  - **Penalty: Players not ready to commence within 10 minutes after their match is called, may be defaulted by the TTW referee/duty official.**

### **Penalties for Breach of Rules (see also – Interclub Competition)**

The umpire shall warn the player for contraventions and advise them to stop the offending behaviour and warn that repetition is liable to incur penalties. If in doubt the umpire may suspend play and call on the TTW referee/duty official at any time.

When imposing a penalty, the umpire or TTW referee/duty official should address the player with the words "Code Violation", followed by the details and penalty incurred.

After the warning, the umpire may award 1 point to the offender's opponent, and, for a second offence he may award 2 points, suspend play and call for the TTW referee/duty official.

If misbehaviour persists, the TTW referee/duty official may disqualify the offending player.

The TTW referee/duty official may, at his discretion, disqualify a player for persistent unfair or offensive behaviour, whether reported by the umpire, or not. Such disqualification may be from a match, from an event or from the whole competition.

The TTW duty officer may default a player for any flagrant violation of this code, anywhere within the playing venue.

If, under these rules, a player is disqualified from 2 matches of a team or individual event they shall be automatically disqualified from that team event or individual competition.

**Note:** The types of behaviour for which such penalties may be imposed include:

- deliberate damage to equipment e.g. breaking the ball or hitting tables or barriers
- bad language
- excessive shouting, foot stamping and/or offensive gestures
- kicking barricades
- unfair delaying tactics e.g. hitting ball out of playing area
- disrespect of match officials, TTW referees/duty officials, spectators and other players
- persistent disregard of regulations prohibiting advice during play

## **Interclub Competition**

For Interclub, a system of three strikes will be implemented; initially against a team or teams, rather than individuals whose conduct is covered by other sections of the Code of Conduct.

(NB: This system is designed to improve interclub as a spectacle, and to improve basic standards that have slipped over a number of years, rather than being punitive and time consuming.)

Two warnings will be given by a TTW duty official (on the night/s the offences were noted) for any non conformance with the rules and on the third occurrence a penalty of either half a competition point or a full competition point will be imposed depending on the severity of the offence/s. Team captains/clubs will be required to maintain acceptable standards of dress, umpiring and behaviour under this section of the code.

**Note:** The types of behaviour for which such penalties may be imposed include:

- Failing to wear a shirt of the officially registered colour of the club, for which the player represents. Warmer tops may be worn if of a similar colour to the registered club shirt. In the case of 'composite' teams from two or more clubs, players should wear the official shirt of the club they are registered with.
- Failing to umpire to the acceptable standard.
- Acting in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- Failing to be at the venue for the start of play unless communicated to TTW in advance.
- Failing to be at the table to play within an acceptable period after the previous game has concluded.
- Disregard of regulations prohibiting advice during play.
- Disrespect/abuse of umpires, TTW referees/duty officials, spectators and other players.

## **Record of Offences**

Umpires who impose/want to impose penalties without the presence of the TTW duty official should report to the TTW duty official, following the completion of the match.

TTW duty officials shall complete a suitable report to the appropriate committee relating to every incident resulting in a default. Copies of such reports shall be forwarded to the offending player.

## **Miscellaneous**

Gluing of bats is not permitted within the playing venues.

Umpires using scorecards must still call the score loudly enough to be clearly heard by the players.

Smoking is not permitted inside the venues used by TTW.

Alcohol cannot be brought into/consumed in venues while under the control of TTW.

**Effective 20 May 2011**