

Table Tennis - Rules

Revised Spring 2023

Intramural Table Tennis will be conducted under the 2021-2022 National Federation High School (NFHS) rules, with any exceptions listed below. Final interpretations and modifications shall be determined by the Coordinator of Competitive Sports.

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General Intramural Sports Policies and Procedures

Signing-In and Rosters

1. All players must present a valid Mason ID in order to sign-in and participate in an intramural contest.
2. A player that does not have their Mason ID may still sign-in using a valid government issued photo ID (i.e. a driver's license or passport), *if* their name is already listed on the IMLeagues roster.
3. An individual is bound to the *first* team they sign-in for.
4. A participant can only play on 1 Co-Rec team and 1 single-gender team (i.e. Men's *or* Fraternity).

Forfeits and Defaults

1. Teams that are not present at their scheduled contest by game time will be assessed a forfeit.
2. The prepared team must allow the other team a grace period of 5-minutes to acquire a properly equipped team. The game clock will start at game time. The 5-Minute Rule comes into effect when:
 - a. At least 1 (one) person from the team is properly checked in.
 - b. The captain/team that is not properly prepared to play with the minimum number of players will have 5 minutes to become ready to play.
 - c. If the 5-minute time limit expires and the team still does not have the minimum number of players, the game will be forfeited to the team that has the minimum number of players present.
 - d. If at any time, during the 5-minute limit, the team acquires the minimum number of players, the game will begin. The game clock will remain at the time that has passed and will continue in accordance with sport rules.
3. The player of the team will be assessed a \$10 Forfeit Buy-Back fee. Additionally, the team will be ineligible to play in their next scheduled game until the forfeit fee is paid.

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4. If a team knows in advance that they will be unable to field a team on a given night; they may avoid the forfeit fee and loss of playoff eligibility by completing a [Default Notification form](#) by 1:00pm on the business day of the contest.
 - a. For Sunday games, this form must be completed by 1:00pm the Friday before.

Sportsmanship

To be eligible to continue in the tournament, intramural table tennis teams **MUST** have an average sportsmanship rating of a 2.5.

Competitive Sports expects all participants and spectators to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Unsportsmanlike conduct or other inappropriate behavior occurring in Mason Recreation indoor or outdoor facilities before, during, or after intramural events will not be tolerated. Teams will be held accountable for the actions of their players (both participating and non-participating) and their fans. Officials and the Mason Recreation staff have the authority to impose and enforce penalties on teams, players and/or fans that have committed offenses. Penalties for post-game, playoff, and tournament play violations may be carried over into subsequent games and/or sport seasons. The officials will rate each team in each contest. The authority of the officials' rating exists prior to, during, and following all contests to which that official is assigned, and extends to all persons on, at, or near the playing site. Sportsmanship ratings shall be marked on the score sheet. In all cases the Competitive Sports Supervisors and administrative staff may provide input, which may raise or lower the rating. Supervisors may amend the rating for inappropriate conduct or use of an ineligible player.

- **0** - Team is completely uncooperative and out of control before, during, or after a contest. The team captain exhibits poor or no control over themselves, the team, and/or the spectators. The team has multiple ejections or blatant unsportsmanlike conduct that endangers participants, fans, officials, or supervisors. Team fails to cooperate/comply with intramural sports administrative staff, university officials, or law enforcement while performing their duties; falsely represents or withholds any requested information.
 - ***Teams that receive a "0" rating are subject to immediate dismissal from the league or tournament***
- **1** - Teams constantly comment to the officials and/or opposing teams from the field and/or sidelines. The team captain exhibits little or no control over teammates or himself/herself. Majority of individuals on this team are disrespectful of opponents or officials on a regular basis. Teams that receive a second unacceptable rating ("1") in the same sport or activity are subject to immediate dismissal from league or tournament play.
- **2** - Team members or spectators are disrespectful of opponents or officials on a number of occasions, which may or may not warrant a penalty. Captain exhibits minor control over his/herself and his/her teammates and spectators. Teams receiving multiple warnings or having a player ejected for an unsportsmanlike act should receive no higher than a "2" rating.

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- **3-** Team members and spectators are respectful of opponents and officials except for one or two minor incidents, which may or may not merit a warning from the game officials or supervisor.
- **4-** Players cooperate fully with the officials about rule interpretations and calls. The captain also has full control of his/her teammates. Team members and spectators were respectful of opponents and officials and encouraged each other's efforts. At no time was this team disrespectful towards participants or officials.

Protest

1. A team captain may protest player eligibility and rule interpretation, but *not* the judgement of officials.
2. To file a protest, notification of the protest must be made to a game official prior to the *next live ball*.
3. A player's eligibility must be protested *prior to the start of the contest*.

For more information regarding the policies and procedures of Intramural Sports, please see the Intramural Sports Handbook on IMLeagues and the Mason Recreation website.

Equipment

1. Mason Intramurals will provide balls and paddles. Participants will be held responsible for any damage to our equipment, including the tables and facility resulting from reckless play or anything outside of the scope of play.
2. The official shall be the sole judge of any ball offered for play and may change the ball during play at their discretion.

Contest Timing

1. Contests will start at the time they are scheduled on IMLeagues. Teams should check-in with the Competitive Sports Supervisor 15 minutes prior to the scheduled game time.
2. Teams have 30 minutes to complete their scheduled matchup.
3. One match (or contest) will consist of best 2 out of 3 games played to **11 points** each game.

Game Rules

Intramural Table Tennis will be conducted under modified NFHS rules. The following contains an overview of the major rules and modifications with some exceptions.

Start of the Game

1. Prior to the game the two competing individuals will meet and decide who will serve and which side they will start on in a manner of their choosing
2. Players serve **two serves each**, alternating. A player **does not** have to win specifically off their own serve in order to win a point.

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3. If a game ties at 10-10, a player **must win by 2 points**. In this situation, players **serve one serve each**, alternating. **Cap is 15**, so the first player to reach 15 wins.

Legal Serving

1. You **cannot hide the ball** from the ball toss to contact, with any part of your body
2. If the ball hits the net during service, it is a let, the point is replayed. There is no limit or point deductions for let serves.
3. Your serve must contact your side of the table prior to going over the net.
4. Opponents must let the serve bounce once prior to returning it.

Scoring

1. The players are responsible for keeping track of the score as their game progresses as well as discussing amongst each other to determine who to award points.
2. If players cannot agree on the who achieved a scoring opportunity, the Intramural Supervisor will help delegate a solution.

Tournament Rules

1. There will be a bracket set by the Intramural Supervisor at the end of the regular season, letting participants know who their upcoming match-up is.
2. Tournament Brackets will be single elimination (may be changed depending on low number of teams).

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Competitive Sports Office via email at imsports@gmu.edu. Our office is open Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm.