

George Braithwaite Major League (GBML) Table Tennis – Season 3, Fall 2024 (Prospectus)

Purpose

The purpose of the league is to foster individual and team competitiveness and invigorates club unity, interactions and friendship across the many regions of the United States. By upscaling the participation of this Olympic recognized sport of table tennis through our tournament goers as well as recreational and amateur pongers, PongSpace sets forth the pillars and foundation to make table tennis a major sport in the country.

Summary

Our beloved Chief, Legend, Confidant and Mentor, George Braithwaite, had spent decades of his life envisioning, formulating, perfecting and promoting a club/team league concept in the US similar to successful leagues held in European countries; he started his Greater New York Table Tennis League when he was serving as VP of the USATT in the 1990's. With an experienced team of 30 years of proven track records in team-based league competitions, PongSpace is committed to carry out his vision and dream into reality.

The League

The league will:

- Operate at minimal cost by:
 - Leveraging existing software to promote self-score entering and to eliminate labor intensive league management.
 - Allowing participants to compete on non-prime club hours and rates.
 - Promoting self-officiating. (except for the league championship)
- Utilize existing club spaces.
- Provide opportunities and incentives for teams to connect for coaching, train and improve.
- Provide revenue generating opportunities for local clubs.
- Inspire and cultivate cardio health habits.
- Promote social aspect and interactions among regional neighbors.
- Leverage PongSpace for logistical.
- Host a culminating championship finale.

PongSpace

PongSpace, a new venture initiated by a team of table tennis enthusiasts, gears to promote the

sport of table tennis in the United States. For more information on PongSpace, visit PongSpace.com.

Organization Resources

The Organizational Resources are as follows:

- Competition. PongSpace.com will be used for remote scheduling of matches and recording scores.
- Various club pages on Pongspace.com will be used to reserve tables to facilitate the competition
- PongSpace as:
 - Source for Rules and Sports Knowledge Provider
 - Access to discounted equipment
 - Free instructional videos
 - Organizational know how
- Pongspace designates regional directors will be used to manage the season.

Entry Fees

Teams must be paid in full before the start of first meet!!

The entry fee for the league will be \$400 per team for the entire season to Regional Championship. Each team will have minimum of 3 and maximum 5 players. Each player will receive a PongSpace t-shirt.

League Format/Concepts

- **Officials:** All regular season matches will be self-officiated. Championship finals will be officiated by USATT certified referee (CR) or above.
- **Meet Referee:** During the regular season team meet, captains are responsible to settle all disputes. At the national championship, the tournament referee (USATT Certified Referee, CR) will appoint roaming umpires to resolve all conflicts and disputes.
- **Meet Format:** The format is Olympic Team Format: ABC vs XYZ. Refer to 2016 USATT Tournament Guide. Page 8-5 section 16 Method of Play (4 singles and 1 doubles) and 8-11 for card match. Available upon download via link, <https://www.usatt.org/tournaments/tournament-guide>
Athletes are to represent and play for their clubs. While athletes do not need to be monthly or annual members of the club they are representing, it is expected they play at the represented club on a regular basis.
- **Venues:** Regular season team matches will be played at local clubs of the region. The venue of the national championship will be announced in February 2025.
- **Equipment:** All equipment must be ITTF/USATT approved.
- **Competition Attire:** All players are given a t-shirt from PongSpace. Must abide to ITTF/USATT dress code.

- **Scheduling:** A regional director will be assigned to schedule the matches. The home team is responsible to book their home court at Pongspace.com. Immediately after booking, the team can send out email invites to teammates and the other team captains directly.
- **Rosters:** The captain of the team must submit the list of players at the beginning of the season. Before each meet, the captains need to specify the players of the day into match card. Match card is available for printout at the end of this prospectus.
- **Regional Directors:** PongSpace will designate 13 regional directors. The regional directors will be responsible for communicating and ensuring league rules are enforced, and to settle any disputes during the regular season in case the captains of the teams cannot come to an agreement.
- **National Championship - Culminating Event:** All teams are invited to participate in the national championship and location will be determined in Feb 2025 time frame.
- **Gender:** All matches are Co-Ed.
- **Team Size:** Minimum of 3 players and up to 5 players per team. Each individual can only play for one team for each season.
- **Team Match Format:** Each team meet will play 2 singles, 1 double, and followed by 2 more singles matches, if necessary. The team that wins 3 out of the 5 singles/doubles matches wins the team match. For regular season division team match, 3 to 4 players can play. If the team decides to use 4 players, each player will play a singles match and two of the four will play the doubles. Match sequences are 2 singles, 1 double, followed by 2 more singles. For the National Championship tournament, each team picks 3 players to compete. One player will play 2 singles and the other two players play 1 single and 1 double each.
- **Matches:** All singles / doubles match during the regular season and championship tournament will be 3 out of 5 games.
- **Games:** All games are best of 11 (deuce scoring when game is tied).
- **Scoring:** During the regular season, each team meet won will count as 3 points. The losing team will count as 1 point. Top teams from each group will earn automatic invites to the championship tournament.
- **Rounds:** Each team within the assigned group will play one home meet and one away meet during the regular season. The Championship tournament will be round robin or single elimination based on seeding from regular season results.
- **Rules:** Must abide to ITTF/USATT Rules and Regulations.
- **Team Match Duration:** Each team meet is expected to take 45 min to 2 hours on a single table usage.
- **Forfeitures:** A team that fails to provide sufficient players to field a team will lose that match. A team that cancels within a 48-hour window will lose the match 5-0 with that match counted in the results. The only exception will be inclement weather. A team that loses without sufficient players will still earn a point whereas the team that fails to show up will not have a single point.
- **Disputes:** For the regular season, the regional director will have the final authority to resolve any disputes. For the championship, the referee of the tournament will have the final power to resolve any disputes.
- **Entering Scores:** Team may print out match card at the end of this prospectus. Please

email match card with results to jasper@pongspace.com

Regular Season, Swiss format

Duration: 9 months

Period: September 2024 - May 2025

Tournament: Kick-off tournament

Regional league play will be held at each of the 13 Regions within the listed States to enable feasible traveling plus kick-off tournament date:

- 1) Metro NY (Edmund Suen)
- 2) NJ/PA (Edmund Suen)
- 3) MA/RI (Jasper Wong) 10/12/2024
- 4) Dallas/TX (Donna Chen) 10/26/2024
- 5) North Orange County and East LA/CA (Michael Yang) 9/28/2024
- 6) Bay Area/CA (Jay Lu/Wai Wong)
- 7) Sacramento/CA (James Therriault)
- 8) Seattle/WA (Angela Guan)
- 9) National Capitol (DC/MD/VA) (Khaleel Asgarali) 10/19/2024
- 10) NC/SC (Andy Nguyen) 10/19/2024
- 11) FL (Willy Leparulo)
- 12) WI/IL (Linda Leaf)
- 13) GA (Brian Crisp)

What is it?

Table tennis Swiss format came directly from our neighboring partner in the game of chess. It is a non-eliminating format with a fixed number of rounds where teams face off for a best of N team match. Teams are paired randomly or by predetermined seeds. Wins are losses are assigned points:

Win – 1 point

Loss – 0 point

How does it work?

Based on number teams per region, league committee and regional coordinators will declare the number of rounds in the season, teams will play team match against their opposing teams. As teams win or lose, they will be paired with opposing teams with the same records to create evenly skilled (more fair and exciting) matches as the league progresses.

EXAMPLE:

16 teams in METRO region:

ROUND 1:

Team 1 vs Team 16

Team 2 vs Team 15

Team 3 vs Team 14

Team 4 vs Team 13
Team 5 vs Team 12
Team 6 vs Team 11
Team 7 vs Team 10
Team 8 vs Team 9

ROUND 2:

Team 1 (1-0) vs Team 8 (1-0)
Team 2 (1-0) vs Team 7 (1-0)
Team 3 (1-0) vs Team 6 (1-0)
Team 4 (1-0) vs Team 5 (1-0)
Team 9 (0-1) vs Team 16 (0-1)
Team 10 (0-1) vs Team 15 (0-1)
Team 11 (0-1) vs Team 14 (0-1)
Team 12 (0-1) vs Team 13 (0-1)

ROUND 3:

Team 1 (2-0) vs Team 4 (2-0)
Team 2 (2-0) vs Team 3 (2-0)
Team 5 (1-1) vs Team 8 (1-1)
Team 6 (1-1) vs Team 7 (1-1)
Team 9 (1-1) vs Team 12 (1-1)
Team 10 (1-1) vs Team 11 (1-1)
Team 13 (0-2) vs Team 16 (0-2)
Team 14 (0-2) vs Team 15 (0-2)

ROUND 4:

Team 1 (3-0) vs Team 2 (3-0)
Team 3 (2-1) vs Team 4 (2-1)
Team 5 (2-1) vs Team 6 (2-1)
Team 9 (2-1) vs Team 10 (2-1)
Team 7 (1-2) vs Team 8 (1-2)
Team 11 (1-2) vs Team 12 (1-2)
Team 13 (1-2) vs Team 14 (1-2)
Team 15 (0-3) vs Team 16 (0-3)

Final positions in Region:

Team 1 (4-0)
Team 2 (3-1)
Team 3 (3-1)
Team 5 (3-1)
Team 9 (3-1)
Team 4 (2-2)
Team 6 (2-2)
Team 10 (2-2)
Team 7 (2-2)

Team 11 (2-2)
Team 13 (2-2)
Team 8 (1-3)
Team 12 (1-3)
Team 14 (1-3)
Team 15 (1-3)
Team 16 (0-4)

National Championship

The National Championship will be held in a weekend in Memorial Day weekend, May 24-25, 2025. Venue location will be announced in Feb 2025.

- **Edibility:** All participating teams in the league are invited.
- **Divisions:** Based on finishing records and position of the regular season between SEP 2024 and MAY 2025 in Swiss format, teams will be assigned to divisions in the national championship. Regular season is the qualifying stage to determine the divisions that the teams will be assigned to, in the national championship.
- **Format:** The league committee can decide on a round robin format following by single elimination of the top two teams or simply just a round robin format. Matches follow the same rules for the regular season.
- **Referee:** PongSpace will provide a USATT certified referee (CR) to oversee the championship. The referee will enforce ITTF/USATT rules and regulations of the tournament as well as handle any disputes during the championship.
- **Captains Meeting:** Prior to the start of the competition, there will be a Captains' meeting to explain the rules and to answer questions.
- **Insurance and Waiver Forms:** Regular season insurance is covered by each club. All participants need to sign a waiver to release liability of PongSpace and participants. PongSpace will cover insurance for the Championship tournament.

Prizes

REGIONAL:

1st Place \$600

NATIONAL:

1st Place \$800

2nd Place \$400

Registration

ONLINE: Teams can register and pay online via: <https://pongspace.com/engagement/>

EMAIL: Teams can download PDF, complete it and send to: info@pongspace.com

TEXT: 347-219-1896

Team Match, 3 Players

USATT Team Match

Olympic Format



Tournament _____

Date(s) _____

ATTENTION: Please record all scores accurately. It is important for tie-breaking and may be needed for rating purposes.

ABC _____

_____ XYZ

Team name

Team name

Scores

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|------------------------|
| A | | | - | | | X |
| B | | | - | | | Y |
| A or B & C | | | - | | | X or Y & Z |
| B or A | | | - | | | Z |
| C | | | - | | | Y or X |

Matches

Captain's Signatures

Round - Match

Umpire's Signature

Circle each match winner's name

* These columns are used for recording serve