

George Braithwaite

Major League Table Tennis

Season 4 (2025-26)

Purpose

The purpose of the League is to foster individual and team competitiveness and invigorate club unity, interaction, 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**, spent decades of his life envisioning, formulating, perfecting, and promoting a club/team league concept in the U.S., inspired by successful leagues held in European countries. He founded the **Greater New York Table Tennis League** while serving as VP of the **USATT** in the 1990's. With over 30 years of experience in team-based competitions, PongSpace is committed to bringing his vision to life.

The League

The league will:

- Operate at minimal cost by:
 - Utilizing technology instead of manual labor for scorekeeping.
 - Scheduling matches during off-peak club hours and rates as well as pre-arranged tournament sites.
 - Using self-officiated matches (except for the league championship).
- Utilize existing club space.
- Provide opportunities and incentives for teams to practice and learn.
- Provide revenue generating opportunities for local clubs.
- Inspire and cultivate healthy habits.
- Promote social interactions among regional neighbors.
- Leverage PongSpace to manage logistics.
- Host a culminating championship finale.

PongSpace

PongSpace, a new venture initiated by a team of table tennis enthusiasts, is dedicated to promoting the sport of table tennis in the United States. For more information about PongSpace, visit PongSpace.com.

Organizational Resources

- <https://pongspace.com/clubleague/> will be used for team registration, score updates, standings and other communications for the league.
- Using various club pages on PongSpace.com to reserve tables to facilitate competition and training
- PongSpace will organize a minimum of two regional tournaments
 - PongSpace as:
 - Source for Rules and Sports Knowledge Provider
 - Access to discount equipment
 - Free instructional videos
 - Organizational know-how
 - PongSpace designated regional directors will be used to manage the season.

Regular Season

October 15th 2025 to April 15th 2026

League Championship

Memorial Day Weekend 2026

Entry Fees

- **Team fees must be paid in full before the start of the first meet**
- The Regular Season Entry Fee is \$150 per team for regional play in NY. Other regions will be announce soon.
- The National Championship Entry Fee is an additional \$150. Each team will have a minimum of 3 players and a maximum of 5 players.

League Format and Concepts

- **Officials:** All regular season matches will be self-officiated. All championship finals will be officiated by USATT or ITTF certified umpires
- **Meet Referee:** The captains during the regular season meet will settle all the disputes before entering final results. At the championship tournament, the tournament referee will settle all disputes.
- **Meet Format:** The format is team. Three players will represent each team during the team meet. Each team is expected to play every other team as a home team and a visiting team once. The **Home team** will pick “ABC” and the **Visiting team** will pick “XYZ”.
- **Athletes represent a club and play for their team.** While athletes do not need to be monthly or annual members of the club they are representing, it is expected they play at the club they represent on a regular basis.

- **Venues:** PongSpace will arrange three competition sites during the regular season. Each team can also arrange competitions on their own so each team can play the other team in the division twice.
- **Practice Sessions:** Teams are encouraged to spend time practicing table tennis and training.
- **Equipment:** All equipment must be ITTF or USATT approved. Table Tennis Rackets, specifically, table tennis racket coverings must be International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) or USA Table Tennis Approved.
- **Competition Attire:** All players are encouraged to compete in shorts, sneakers and matching uniform T-shirts.
- **Scheduling:** There will be approximately three (3) tournaments during the regular season. The first one determines the division each team will belong to. The second and third are considered “home” and “away” matches so each team in the division should play one other twice. Separately, each team can also arrange team meets if they are not able to attend one of the tournaments.
- **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 electronically submit the players of the day.
- **Regional Directors:** PongSpace will designate a regional director for each region. The regions for season four are: Metro NY, New England, South, West and the Southeast. The regional directors will be responsible for communications and ensuring league rules are enforced and to settle any disputes during the regular season in the event the captains of the teams cannot come to an agreement.
- **Divisions:** Divisions will be determined based on team strength at the regional level after the initial tournament. Each division at the regional level is expected to have 4 to 6 teams.
- **League Championship - Culminating Event:** Teams finishing in the top half of the regional division will be invited to the National Championship. The teams will then be grouped into different divisions in the National Championship based on regular season results. PongSpace reserves the right to invite additional teams based on regular season performance. Regular season results will determine the seeding during the championship.
- **Gender:** All matches are Co-Ed
- **Team Size:** Minimum 3 players and up to 5 players per team. Each individual can only play for one team for each season.
- **Meets:** Refer to the Match Sheet.
- **Matches:** All matches during the regular season and championship tournament will be 3 out of 5 games, each played to 11 points.
- **Game:** All games best of 11 (deuce scoring when game is tied).
- **Scoring:** During the regular season, each Team Meet win will count as 3 points, and each Team Meet loss (non-default) will count as 1 point.

- **Rounds:** During the regular season, each team within the assigned group will play one home meet and one away meet. At the National Championship, each team in the group will play each team once in the round robin group. Top two teams from the round robin group will advance to Single Elimination.
- **Roster and Match Score Sheets:** Prior to each match each team is required to fill out a match sheet.
- **Table Tennis Rules:** The league will abide by the USA Table Tennis Rules and Regulations.
- **Team Match Duration:** Each team meet is estimated to take 2 hours on one table.
- **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 still earns a point whereas the team failing to show up will not have a single point.
- **Disputes:** For the regular season, the regional director will have the final power over the dispute. For the championship, the referee of the tournament will have final power over the dispute.

League Championship

- **Date:** The League Championship will be held on **Memorial Day Weekend 2026**. The venue will be announced in January 2026.
- **Format:** Round robin format followed by single elimination of the top two teams from the group.
- **Referee:** PongSpace will provide a USATT certified Referee to oversee the championship. The referee will enforce USATT rules and regulations at 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. It will be held over Zoom
- **Insurance and Waiver Forms:** Regular season insurance is covered by each club. All participants must sign a waiver releasing PongSpace and themselves from liability. PongSpace will cover insurance for the Championship tournament.

League Registration

Register at <https://pongspace.com/clubleague/>