

Tournament Regulations

Status: Approved



1.0: General

This document outlines the guidelines for and standards required of BFA-sanctioned tournaments. BFA-sanctioned events contribute to the UK rankings. These conditions apply to all BFA-sanctioned tournaments across all tournament categories.

2.0: Tournament Submission

BFA-sanctioned tournaments can only be held by BFA-affiliated Clubs or the BFA itself. For tournaments to be sanctioned by the BFA, Clubs must submit their tournaments for approval to the BFA in advance. Please see the Tournament Categories section for details of how much notice is required.

To submit a tournament for approval, organising Clubs must fill out this form:

<https://forms.gle/E8FEPIot8qGZUKch6>

3.0: Tournament Categories

Tournament categories are determined by the following criteria:

- The number of tables available
- The type of tables available
- The amount of notice given
- When the event is held

Category	Minimum Notice	When	Minimum # Tables	Table type	Ranking Points for 1st	Licence Required to play
ITSF Master Series	3 months	Full weekend	10	ITSF	100	Class A
ITSF Pro Tour	3 months	Full weekend	8	ITSF	50	Class A
Challenger	1 month	Weekend min. 1 day	2	ITSF	40	Class B
Regional	1 month	Weekend min. 1 day	2	Any	20	Class B
Local	1 week	Any day	1	Any	10	Class C

4.0: Tournament Rules

Tournaments must be played according to the official ITSF rules. In the case of Local tournaments, organisers may choose to use the ITSF's simplified rules instead (<https://britfoos.com/begin/learning-the-rules/>).

5.0: Challenger Tournaments

Challenger tournaments are National-level tournaments designed to be relatively easy for Clubs to run while providing an opportunity for high-level competitive foosball for players while contributing to the UK tournament calendar.

5.1: Minimum requirements

- Two ITSF tables
- One month's notice
- One (weekend) day

5.2: Tournament Name

Challenger tournaments must be named by the city/town followed by "Challenger", e.g. "1st Bristol Challenger", "Hackney Challenger III".

5.3: Event types

Challenger tournaments must include at least one of the following event types:

- Open Singles
- Open Doubles
- Women's Singles
- Women's Doubles
- Senior Singles
- Senior Doubles
- Junior Singles
- Junior Doubles
- Mixed Doubles
- Wheelchair Singles
- Wheelchair Doubles

5.4: Event format

All 5.3. events at Challenger tournaments must be organised in a Swiss qualification and single-elimination mode, including a 3rd place playoff.

5.4.1: Qualification

Qualification uses the Swiss system with a minimum of 5 rounds for the Open event types. For other event types, it is at the organiser's discretion to select a number of rounds appropriate to the number of participants. Participants must be separated by the Buchholz number after the number of points derived from wins.

The match format must be first to 5 points, best of 3 sets, with a two-point difference at 4-4 in the 3rd set up to a ceiling of 8 points.

5.4.2: Elimination

The professional division match format must be first to 5 points, best of 5 sets, with a two-point difference at 4-4 in the 5th set up to a ceiling of 8 points.

Depending on the number of participants, the final placings in qualification will be divided into a maximum of 3 different divisions (professional, semi pro and amateur).

- With fewer than 13 participants/teams, only 1 division is formed.
- With fewer than 25 participants/teams, 2 divisions are formed.
- With 25 or more participants/teams, 3 divisions are formed.
- No division may contain more than 32 participants/teams.
- A maximum of 96 participants/teams are divided into the 3 divisions (32/32/32).
- The professional division may not be larger than the other divisions.

In the eliminations, the players are seeded according to their placing in the qualification round.

5.5: Participants

Participation in Challenger events is for active Class B and Class A Licence holders. Active members of other national associations are allowed to participate provided they have an active ITSF player licence. The organising Club ensures compliance with this requirement.

5.5.1: Limiting the number of participants

In order to ensure that the tournament runs smoothly the number of participants is limited according to the number of tables available.

If only one event is played per day, the following rules apply:

- If there are less than 8 tables, the starting places are limited to 8 times the number of tables.
- See the following table:

Tables	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Participants	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96

If players can enter two or more events per day, the starting places for each event are limited to 6 times the number of tables.

5.6: UK ranking points

Challenger tournaments provide the following UK ranking points:

Position	1	2	3	4	QF	R16	R32	R64	R128	R256
Points if ≥ 32 participants	40	36	32	28	24	20	16	12	8	4
Points if < 32 participants	30	27	24	21	18	15	12			
Points if ≤ 16 participants	20	18	16	14	12	10				

5.7: Entry Fees

The entry fee for Challenger tournaments is capped at £15 per participant per event.

5.8: Playing Conditions

In Challenger tournaments, only ITSF recognised or approved tables are allowed to be used. At least two tables must be used. Multi-table tournaments are permitted.

Tables must be set up and ready to play at least one hour before the start of the tournament.

Matches must be played with the balls that are officially approved by the respective table manufacturer.

Tables must be set to free play. Organisers can charge a 'table fee' per player to cover costs of the tables.

5.9: Prizes

The top 3 in each category receive awards (trophies, medals, certificates) to be provided by the organiser.

If other prizes are available the organiser is free to choose how they are allocated.

6.0: ITSF Tournaments

ITSF tournaments are international-level tournaments designed to provide high level competitive table football for UK and international players.

6.1: Minimum Requirements

- 8 tables (Pro Tour) / 10 tables (Master Series)
- 3 months notice
- Full weekend

6.2: Tournament Name

ITSF Pro Tour must include the city or region name in the title followed by “Open”, e.g. “Warwickshire Open”, “London Open”.

ITSF Master Series must include the city or region name in the title followed by “Masters”, e.g. “London Masters”. Clubs can apply for the title “UK Masters” to be given at the BFA’s discretion.

6.3: Event Types

ITSF tournaments must include all of the following event types:

- Open Singles
- Open Doubles
- Women’s Singles
- Women’s Doubles
- Senior Singles
- Senior Doubles
- Mixed Doubles

6.4: Participants

Participation in ITSF events is for active Class A Licence holders. Active members of other national associations are allowed to participate provided they have an active ITSF player licence. The organising Club ensures compliance with this requirement.

6.4.1: Limiting the number of participants

In order to ensure that the tournament runs smoothly the number of participants is limited according to the number of tables available.

The maximum number of participants across all events together is calculated from the number of tables x 8.

6.5: Event Format

All 6.3. events at ITSF tournaments must be organised in a Swiss qualification and single-elimination mode, including a 3rd place playoff.

6.5.1: Qualification

Qualification uses the Swiss system with a minimum of 6 rounds. Participants must be separated by the Buchholz number after the number of points derived from wins.

The match format must be first to 5 points, best of 3 sets, with a two-point difference at 4-4 in the 3rd set up to a ceiling of 8 points.

The mode of qualification is determined by the number of participants in the event:

- <2 participants: event cancelled
- <4 participants: no qualification round, additional participation in Open events
- <10 participants: everyone against everyone, best of 3, with a final
- >10 participants: 6 rounds of Swiss, best of 3

6.5.2: Elimination

The professional division match format must be first to 5 points, best of 5 sets, with a two-point difference at 4-4 in the 5th set up to a ceiling of 8 points.

Depending on the number of participants, the final placings in qualification will be divided into a maximum of 3 different divisions (A, B and C).

- <4 participants: Semi-final & finals
- <10 participants: final

- <25 participants: Distribution based on wins in the preliminary round: 4+ wins: Division A, <4 wins: Division B
- >=25 participants: Distribution based on wins in the preliminary round: 4+ wins: Division A, 3 wins: Division B, <3 wins: Division C

6.6: Organisation Fee

The organisation fee for ITSF tournaments is a one-off fee capped at £15 per participant.

6.7: Entry Fee

The entry fee for ITSF tournaments is capped at £15 per event per participant. Juniors do not pay an entry fee.

6.8: Prizes

The top 3 in each event receive awards (trophies, certificates, medals) provided by the tournament organiser.

The prize money is determined by the revenue generated minus costs of the tournament, and appropriated proportionately to the event income received.

Number of players/teams	2-4	5-11	12-23	24-44	45-89	90-155
1st	No prize money	60%	45%	38%	32%	28%
2nd		40%	33%	29%	23%	19%
3rd			22%	20%	15%	14%
4th				13%	10%	7%
5-8th					5%	4%
9-16th						2%

6.9: Playing Conditions

In ITSF tournaments, only ITSF recognised or approved tables are allowed to be used. At least eight tables must be used. Multi-table tournaments are permitted.

Tables must be set up and ready to play at least one hour before the start of the tournament.

Matches must be played with the balls that are officially approved by the respective table manufacturer.

7.0: Regional Championships

Regional Championships are once-a-year events to determine the region's singles, doubles and club champions. They are designed to be 'festivals-of-foosball' for the region, giving Clubs the opportunity to promote foosball in their region, while bringing the region's community together for both competition and community fun. Participation is limited to players that are members of Clubs in the region and new players based in the region.

7.1: Minimum Requirements

- 2 tables
- 1 month's notice
- Full weekend

7.2: Tournament Name

Regional Championships must include the region name followed by 'Championship', e.g. 'London Championship' or 'South West Championship'.

7.3: Event Types

Regional Championships must include the following event types:

- Regional Club Championship
- Singles
- Doubles

7.4: Participants

Participation in Regional Championships is for active Class B and Class A licence holders. The organising Club ensures compliance with this requirement.

7.4.1: Limiting the number of participants

In order to ensure that the tournament runs smoothly the number of participants is limited according to the number of tables available.

The maximum number of participants across all events together is calculated from the number of tables x 8.

7.5: Event Format

Regional Club Championships Qualification must be organised either in a Round-Robin format or Swiss. Elimination must be Single Elimination. The match format is at the organiser's discretion.

All other events, including Singles and Doubles, must be organised in a Qualification and Elimination format as follows:

7.5.1: Qualification

Qualification uses the Swiss system with a minimum of 6 rounds. Participants must be separated by the Buchholz number after the number of points derived from wins.

The match format must be first to 5 points, best of 3 sets, with a two-point difference at 4-4 in the 3rd set up to a ceiling of 8 points.

The mode of qualification is determined by the number of participants in the event:

- <2 participants: event cancelled
- <4 participants: no qualification round, additional participation in Open events
- <10 participants: everyone against everyone, best of 3, with a final
- >10 participants: 6 rounds of Swiss, best of 3

7.5.2: Elimination

The professional division match format must be first to 5 points, best of 5 sets, with a two-point difference at 4-4 in the 5th set up to a ceiling of 8 points.

Depending on the number of participants, the final placings in qualification will be divided into a maximum of 3 different divisions (A, B and C).

- <4 participants: Semi-final & finals
- <10 participants: final
- <25 participants: Distribution based on wins in the preliminary round: 4+ wins: Division A, <4 wins: Division B
- >=25 participants: Distribution based on wins in the preliminary round: 4+ wins: Division A, 3 wins: Division B, <3 wins: Division C

8.0: Local events

Local events are designed for players of all levels of skill and experience located in the same town or city as the event itself.

8.1: Minimum Requirements

- 1 table
- 1 week's notice
- Any evening

8.2: Tournament Name

There are no requirements for a specific event name.

8.3: Event Types

A local event can include any event type. For the purposes of providing an excellent experience for newcomers, the BFA recommends hosting regular no-snake Monster Draw-Your-Partner events using the simplified rules.

8.4: Participants

Participation in Local events is for everyone so there is no barrier to entry. Newcomers will be automatically given a Class C licence upon registration. Class B and Class A licence holders are able to participate.

8.4.1: Limiting the number of participants

There is no formal restriction on the number of participants, however organisers are advised to ensure players have an excellent experience by ensuring the number of participants isn't much greater than 12x the number of tables.

8.5: Event Format

There are no requirements for a specific event format for Local events. However, the BFA strongly recommends ensuring players get plenty of games, therefore a format which includes a round-robin or Swiss stage is recommended.