

BFA Working Groups

Distribution: BFA members

Adopted April 2007, Last amended 31 October 2010

This is a Policy Document covering the detailed workings of the various Working Groups of the BFA (as required by the BFA constitution section 2.5), being as detailed below:

1 Computing Working Group

- 1.1 The group shall consist of
 - 1 individuals with appropriate expertise to assist with the maintenance and continual development of the BFA website;
 - 2 The Chair of the Computing Working Group shall be the BFA Webmaster
- 1.2 Duties shall include
 - (a) Maintenance of the BFA website
 - (b) Development of the BFA website including e.g. advertising and improved interactivity
 - (c) Timely updating of information including announcements of events (including pre-registration), and publication of results and player rankings

2 Refereeing Commission

- 2.1 The group shall consist of
 - 1 existing qualified referees
 - 2 players seeking to become accredited as referees
 - 3 internationally-accredited referees.
 - 4 Each National league venue or team/club should be encouraged to put forward at least one individual for referee accreditation.
 - 5 The commission will elect its own chair from within the pool of qualified/accredited referees.
- 2.2 The purpose of this commission is to
 - (a) ensure a consistent approach towards refereeing UK events, in accordance with the rules
 - (b) to develop an accreditation system for referees, not only in knowledge of the rules but in their interpretation (particularly judgement calls such as jarring and resets).
 - (c) The Commission chair shall have the power of appointment to the commission subject to ratification by the Executive Committee.
 - (d) The commission should nominate one member to sit on the ITSF rules commission

3. Disciplinary Commission

- 3.1 This should consist of members as follows:
 - 1 The chair of the disciplinary commission shall be the BFA Vice-Chair or other BFA exec member as required by (d) below
 - 2 Chair or Member of Refereeing Commission
 - 3 Chair or Member of Tournament Coordination Committee
 - 4 In the event of a disciplinary matter where any conflict of interest might arise (including but not limited to a player from the same playing venue or repeated doubles partner, or direct opponent at the time of the alleged infraction), the commission member affected shall stand down and his/her place be taken from another member of the relevant commission (BFA Exec, Referees or TCC).
 - 5 No two members from the same playing venue may sit simultaneously on the disciplinary commission in consideration of a disciplinary matter
- 3.2 The commission has two roles

- (a) Formulation and updating the BFA Code of Conduct, Disciplinary and Anti-Doping policy including recommendations of procedures and penalties to the Executive committee
- (b) Adjudication on matters of breaches or alleged breaches of discipline when reported to the commission:

4. Youth & Grass Roots Development Commission

- 4.1 A Commission to institute a youth championship programme to encourage the sport of foosball in schools, youth clubs and other groups or organisations providing services for young people under 18 years of age with aim of providing a UK representative or team for the proposed ITSF World Youth championships
- 4.2 The group shall consist of
 - 1 BFA committee - chaired by grass-roots and youth development officer
 - 2 Table operators serving schools and colleges and other appropriate establishments
 - 3 Representatives of league clubs
 - 4 Representative of rules & refereeing commission
 - 5 Individual players and members who seek to improve local, youth and disabled foosball development
- 4.3 Duties of the commission include
 - (a) To improve participation at local level via publication and distribution of abridged official rules appropriate for casual play
 - (b) To encourage players at local level to develop skills and enthusiasm
 - (c) To encourage participation in the national league
 - (d) To encourage participation of people with disabilities, including wheelchair users, facilitating access to appropriately designed tables, working in conjunction with existing organisations and services for people with disabilities with aim of providing a UK representative or team for the proposed ITSF World Wheelchair Foosball championships

5. Womens Commission (The Powder Room)

- 5.1 The group shall consist of
 - 1 all female members of the BFA and
 - 2 other female subscribers to the Britfoos forum
- 5.2 Duties of the Womens Commission include
 - (a) The commission is charged with developing the sport of foosball among women in the UK via increasing participation and improving skill levels
 - (b) The forum is also intended as a 'safe space' for women to discuss issues and interests without interference from male BFA members or subscribers
 - (c) The commission will elect its own chairperson/moderator
- 5.3 The commission will elect one individual to represent womens interests on the BFA Executive Committee
 - (i) The result of the election must be announced 7 days before the AGM or other General Meeting if required
 - (ii) The nominee shall be subject to ratification by a simple majority at a general meeting

6. Commercial Development Commission

- 6.1 The Commercial Development Commission shall consist of:
 - 1 Executive Committee members
 - 2 Persons with experience in commercial matters
 - 3 Persons involved in the provision of BFA services to corporate bodies
- 6.2 Duties include
 - (a) To secure Sponsorship for all aspects of the BFA and BFA-endorsed activities
 - (b) To organise, negotiate and facilitate commercial contracts involving BFA members in providing corporate services including demonstration events, expert challenges, organisation/refereeing commercial tournaments etc.
 - (c) To maintain a database of BFA members willing and able to undertake corporate services on behalf of the BFA
 - (d) To maximise the commercial opportunities for BFA members, and to ensure such opportunities are allocated equitably, subject to player status, wherever practicable

7. Tournament Coordination Commission (TCC)

- 7.1 Composition of the TCC:
 - (a) The Tournament Coordination Commission shall consist of nine persons
 - (i) Executive Committee Members who shall constitute a majority of TCC members
 - (ii) Other experienced BFA members appointed by the Executive Committee

- (b) The Executive Committee has the power to remove members from the TCC in the event of persistent failure to vote or inappropriate conduct.
 - (i) Persistent failure to vote is defined as a failure to vote on two successive tournaments
 - (c) The Executive Committee shall review TCC membership annually
 - (d) The TCC Chairman shall be the BFA Secretary or such other person as elected by TCC members
- 7.2 Powers of the TCC: The TCC shall have
- (a) Responsibility for developing criteria for BFA sanctioning of tournaments and for ensuring tournaments meet the stated criteria
 - (b) The power to confer BFA ranking status on a tournament
 - (c) The final say on POY ranking status for a tournament
 - (d) An advisory power to recommend for or against award of ITSF status to the Executive Committee. The final decision on submitting a tournament for ITSF status rests with the executive committee.
- 7.3 Voting Protocols for the TCC
- (a) The Tournament Coordination Commission deliberations and votes shall take place on the dedicated TCC forum except in cases covered in (d)(ii) below.
 - (b) TCC Members cannot vote where there is a conflict of interest - e.g, for ratification of their own event or against ratification for any tournament held within 4 weeks of their own event ('own event' defined as a tournament where they are the promoter or in which they have a significant financial interest e.g. provision of tables)
 - (c) Any tournament meeting the essential criteria for ranking status in BFA Policy Doc 10A shall be granted such status unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary.
 - (d) A TCC vote is carried on a simple majority of voting members.
 - (i) Any TCC member who has not voted within 7 days of an announced vote on the TCC forum, or such other deadline as specified in (d)(ii) below, shall be treated as having abstained.
 - (ii) Where a vote is required more urgently, the TCC chairman shall contact all TCC members via mobile text message and/or e-mail requesting a vote within a specified time (not less than 24 hours).

8. Event Organisers Group

- 8.1 This commission shall consist of:
- 1 Executive Committee Members
 - 2 Tournament promoters
 - 3 Persons involved in or experienced in the running of tournaments or the provision of services relating to tournaments
- 8.2 The role of the group includes
- (a) Advance notification of proposed events prior to public announcements, including avoidance of clashes of dates
 - (b) A source of advice and resources for tournament organisers

9. International Team Working Group

- 9.1 This group shall consist of:
- 1 Executive Committee Members
 - 2 International Team members and officials
- 9.2 The primary purpose of the group is to coordinate matters relating to The Great Britain/England team in
- (i) The ITSF World Cup
 - (ii) Nation Cup competitions in ITSF World Championships Series events
 - (iii) the ITSF World Championships
- 9.3 Specific responsibilities include
- (a) Coordination of affordable travel and accommodation arrangements for the team
 - (b) Provision of appropriate clothing and team uniforms
 - (c) Fulfilment of any requirements of a sponsor of the team (e.g. publicity/photoshoots)
 - (d) Maximising exposure of the team to unfamiliar table types upon which events are to be held
 - (e) To ensure that the strongest possible team is fielded in international team events

10 National League WG

- 10.1 Responsibility for policy and development of the BFA National League

11 Moderators WG

- 11.1 Group for coordination and implementation of policy regarding moderation of the Britfoos Forum

11.2 Duties include:

- (a) Decisions as to moderation of individual posts/threads or banning of individual users
- (b) Summary discipline for users breaking Britfoos forum rules
- (c) Duty to report serious breaches – including but not limited to racist, sexist, ageist and/or homophobic abuse to the disciplinary commission

12 Sports Commission

- 12.1 The purpose of the Sports commission is to work towards securing official recognition of foosball as a sport in the UK and the BFA as the governing body for Great Britain
- 12.2 Membership of the commission is by invitation to members and others able to make a positive contribution to the process
- 12.3 The sports commission will examine the procedures and structure of the game and recommend any changes to structure, rules or organisation necessary for compliance with official criteria for recognition as a sport/governing body

13 Elo Rankings Group

- 13.1 The Elo Rankings Group is an working group open to all those with an interest or view on developing an Elo ranking system for the UK
- 13.2 The power of the group is to require full tournament results (e.g. sport files), and to agree of K-values for different match formats or competition levels.
- 13.3 The group must have developed a system and maintained such a system for a minimum period of 12 months at which point the decision as to whether to adopt Elo rankings as official will be put to the next AGM.