

Date: 5th December 2022

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Introduction & Context

Table Tennis United pledges to create a high performing organisation that is not just fit for today but is fit for the future. We commit to establishing a powerful culture that wins together, creating unity and a common purpose across the table tennis community and that members will be an integral part of the decision making process.

Against that backdrop, and as part of the governance element of the strategy reset, the Board agreed to invite the Constitution Select Committee of National Council to consider several key questions to assist the development of the further reforms of our governance and in this instance the voting structure and to come up with options suitable for its reform.

Following a discussion between the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Constitution Select Committee, it was agreed that a series of questions would be presented for consideration to assist the Board in their deliberations. The only prerequisite to this invitation is that Select Committee members have an open mind to the questions posed, that any predetermined responses are set aside and that discussions align to the context above.

These questions are posed under the following headings:

1. Definition of Company Members (Current criteria can be found in Appendix 1)

- 1.1. *Table Tennis United* makes a number of references to clubs; the strategy positions the development of clubs as critical to the future growth and success of table tennis in England. However, clubs are not currently considered part of our formal governance structure.
- 1.2. Should the definition of a Company Member be extended to include a County Association, a Local League, a club, or other organisation that is affiliated to the Company (as defined by the Articles)?
- Q. Is the definition of the Company Member already too broad – should it be limited to County Associations?
- Q. If a club is to be included, should there be a refined definition of ‘what is a club’?

2. Voting Rights

- 2.1. *Table Tennis United* commits that we will tackle the inequalities in table tennis by ensuring that we are an inclusive sport that actively promotes diversity of thought at all levels of the organisation. The existing structure of Voting Rights does not do that. It is limited in scope, it suggests there is a monopoly of knowledge among existing voting members, it doesn’t encourage the contribution that could be made to the game by the broader membership, particularly those who regularly take part in table tennis (i.e. volunteers, coaches, competitors) and it doesn’t reward growth.
- 2.2. The Board believes the time is right to explore alternative options that demonstrates what our strategy commits to and enables not just the voice of the wider membership to be heard, particularly those who contribute to the sport.

Team: Governance

Title: Governance Reforms - Voting

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- Q. Who, within the table tennis community, should have a role in the governance of the sport - who should have a vote?
- Q. How can we ensure our voting structure is more inclusive actively promotes diversity of thought at all levels of the organisation?

Timing / Next Steps

The Constitution Select Committee is invited to consider the questions contained within this paper and provide a response for consideration by the Board no later than Friday 24th February 2023.

Jo Keay-Blyth will provide Executive support to the Constitution Select Committee and the Chief Executive is available to provide any points of clarification.

The Board will consider the response from the Constitution Select Committee as part of its deliberations into governance reforms that demonstrates Table Tennis England can be a high performing organisation that is not just fit for today but is fit for the future.



Appendix 1

1. **The current voting structure** is as highlighted below and as laid out in our Articles:

1a. Elected Director Voting Rights

The vote of each Company Member shall count as the following number of vote units:

23.6.1 Director Company Member: 1 unit

23.6.2 County Representative Company Member: 1 unit

23.6.3 League Representative Company Member appointed by a Local League with 30 or fewer teams in membership: 2 units

23.6.4 League Representative Company Member appointed by a Local League with 31-100 teams in membership: 4 units

23.6.5 League Representative Company Member appointed by a Local League with 101 or more teams in membership: 6 units

1b. General Meeting Voting Rights

41.3 On a poll the vote of a Company Member shall count as the following number of vote units:

41.3.1 Director Company Member: 1 vote unit.

41.3.2 League Representative Company Member: 1 vote unit for each player registered to take part in the league competition of the Local League by which he is appointed.

41.3.3 County Representative Company Member: 1 vote unit for each vote unit held by the League Representative Company Members appointed by Local Leagues affiliated to the County Association by which he is appointed.