

Welcome

Welcome to the first information bulletin for the 2012 Australian Open. This first bulletin has basic information about the championships, some information received from TTA regarding the scheduling of the championships and details of some important dates for your information.

The Championships

The Championships will be held as follows:

Dates 1 to 8 July 2012 (Practice tables available from 30 June 2012)

Venue: Brisbane Table Tennis Centre

86 Green Terrace

Windsor Q 4030

Contacts

Tournament Director: Derek Scott (derek@tabletennisqld.org, 07 3217 5579)

Referee: Dave Delpratt (bundytt@bigpond.com)

Deputy Referee: Joe Clifton (kay8113@hotmail.com)

In the first instance, queries regarding the championships should be addressed to Derek Scott via the TTQ office.

Important Dates

Intention to Enter Forms due 31 March 2012

Entry Forms Issued by 7 April 2012

Entry Forms & Nominations for Seedings due Friday 18th May 2012

Event Starts 1 July 2012

Scheduling & Format

Due to some controversy about the scheduling and format of the 2011 Australian Open, TTA has issued the following guidelines for your information:

The format of the Australian Open in 2012 will see a few changes from that of 2011. The most notable changes will be as follows;

- *The singles and doubles matches may be conducted prior to the commencement of the Team events.*
- *Some seeded players may receive a bye in the first round of the singles competition on the following basis:*
 - *Less than 24 players, no direct entries*
 - *Between 24 and 47 players, 4 direct entries*
 - *48 or more players, 8 direct entries*
- *Team matches will be a 9 singles format with all 9 games played out in the rounds, unless an international team is involved. If this is the case they will have the option to play the match out or stop at a result.*
- *If there are more than 10 teams in an event, then team match playoffs will be 9 singles format but matches will finish as soon as a result is reached. If there are 10 or fewer teams, and the match is between two undefeated teams to determine first and second positions, this match will also finish as soon as a result is reached.*
- *Teams may substitute a nominated player with their bench player/s into the team matches once 6 matches have been played or a result has been reached, whichever comes later, in the round matches of the team competition.*

The background to these changes is a mixture of balancing the elite player element of the Australian Open Championship with the much needed participation element which each State needs to consider when sending players to this event. All players regardless of their playing level pay significant amounts of money to attend events such as the Australian Open and as such we need to ensure that their diverse interests are considered when deciding on the format.