

## 2010 Law Changes

16th July 2010

At the AGM held on 10th July 2010, two important changes were made to the ETTA Approved Laws, which apply to all Competitive Table Tennis, including Local League matches. From 11 July 2010:

1 Only racket coverings that are currently authorised by the ITTF can be used.

Note: This change does not alter the existing provision under which any County Association, Local League or club may, without specific permission, organise a knock-out competition solely among its own members and players in which the normal requirements of the Approved Laws in respect of playing equipment are varied, such as in a “hard bat” tournament.

The ITTF list of authorised racket coverings is published twice a year, covering the periods 1st January to 30th June, and 1st July to 31st December. These lists will be issued to Leagues by the ETTA, normally by the preceding 15th May and 15th November respectively, and they are also available on the ITTF website.

Several points need to be borne in mind with respect to these lists. First, to be valid, the covering must be in the current list; the fact that it may have been in a previous list is not relevant if it has since been removed. Second, it is possible that a covering will not be authorised for the whole of a season. However, if the ITTF decides to remove a covering at least 6 months’ notice is given, so that players will know well before the start of a season whether or not it will be available to them for the whole of that season. Third, the fact that a covering is on the current list does not guarantee that it is legal. The authorisation applies only to the pimped rubber component and if, for example, the sponge layer is too thick or is uneven, the covering as a whole will not comply with the other requirements of the Laws.

2 A racket cannot be changed during the course of an individual match unless it becomes accidentally damaged so badly that it is unusable.

At the ITTF AGM in May 2010 there were also two changes to the ITTF Laws, and these will automatically be incorporated in the ETTA Approved Laws.

1 A point is not scored against a player for an accidental double hit. An accidental double hit, such as the ball touching the racket and the racket hand, can be ignored

2 The expedite system cannot be introduced in a game if the total of points scored is at least 18. Expedite cannot be introduced if the score has reached or passed 9-9 or 10-8.