

**St. Reweis' 4th Ping Pong Tournament
For SUS Coptic Churches
Saturday & Sunday February 15th & 16th of
2020**

St. Reweis church's servants are very excited for this opportunity to see all our brothers and sisters who contributed in the last 3 events and hoping to see more churches and players contributing in the 4th Ping Pong event for the diocese. We are working diligently to make this event as organized and successful as possible to be fun for all the players and their families.

There are some critical points regarding the general organization of the tournament and the rules of the games that would be important for each captain and player to become familiar with, so please take the time to read and fully understand these points, and if you have any concern or question, please feel free to reach out to us at anytime!

IMPORTANT: Team Captains, please share with your team.

Regarding the General organization of the tournament please be advised of the following:

*No food or beverages is allowed in the playing area.

*To ensure that we are following the schedule and not running late, please ensure you are prompt and on time. Referees are instructed to end the game in advantage of the opponent if a player didn't show up 5 min from the starting of his/her game. Referees will then move on to the next game or match as scheduled.

*It's each player's responsibility to follow the tournament schedule, to know which games will be assigned to him/her, and to show up for his game once it starts.

*Church conduct:

-No foul language.

-Appropriate church attire for all attending.

-Appropriate dress code to all players (T-Shirts only, No tank tops, no cut, no short shorts...)

-Christian behavior is what we are aiming for in our lives and especially during this event! :)

-Same rules are applied to players' families and guests regarding church attire, so we can set an example for our kids in regards to respecting the house of the Lord.

-Every team should choose the same colors shorts and t-shirts for easy recognition and nice looking memory pictures! :)

-No white shirts is allowed for any player or team because we intend to use tournament grade white Nattaku balls.

-It is every player responsibility to follow up with the announcements that the organizers post for the event.

Announcement will be posted on our Ping Pong Facebook page and/ or our WhatsApp group.

To receive Facebook updates, please follow us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Ping-Pong-Tournament-for-SUS-Coptic-Churches-329705397461118/>

To be added to the WhatsApp group to get updates on the event news and schedule, please send text or WhatsApp message to (813)298-9418.

Message shall include: Name, Church Name, and competition category (Open age team, Single Jrs, or Single women)

*The Juniors and Ladies competitions will be single players competing for the top three places; similarly, the open-age competition will be teams of 3-4 players competing for the top three places.

*For a boy or a girl to qualify for registering for the junior competition, he/she has to be less than 16 yo on 3/1/2019 (meaning that the DOB has to be on or after 3/1/2004).

If there is a concern, a copy of the birth certificate may be required to be emailed to one of the organizers after the registration.

*We advise girls who were born after 3/1/2004 to register for the junior competition and not for the ladies competition so they can play with their age group.

*There will be trophies for the players with the best conduct and the best organized teams. All trophies, medals for the ladies and for the juniors competition will be distributed on Saturday evening, while the first place cup for the winning open-age team along with the medals for the top 3 teams will be handed at the end of the tournament on Sunday around 6pm and all the players will get to take group pictures with their team and with other players after the distribution of the prizes.

Regarding the rules of playing the game, we will abide with the current official rules of the ITTF, please feel free to check out these notes;

Service Rules

The service must start with the ball in an open palm. This stops you from throwing it up with spin.

The ball must be thrown vertically, at least 16 cm. This stops you from serving straight out of your hand and surprising your opponent. The ball must be above and behind the table throughout the serve. This stops you getting any silly angles and gives your opponent a fair chance at returning. After throwing the ball, the server must get their free arm and hand out of the way. This is to allow the receiver to see the ball.

Doubles Rules

The service must go diagonally, from the server's right-hand side to the receiver's right-hand side. This stops you from getting the opposing pair tangled up before they've even hit a ball.

A doubles pair must strike the ball alternately. This makes doubles challenging. None of that front court/back court tennis nonsense. At the change of service, the previous receiver becomes the new server and the partner of the previous server becomes the receiver. This makes sure everybody does everything. After eight points you're back to the start of the cycle.

General match play

You have two serves before it is your opponent's turn to serve twice. This used to be five serves each but since changing to 11 it's now just two. At 10-10 it's deuce. You get one serve each and must win by two clear points. This is sudden death or table tennis' equivalent of a tie break. Players have to change ends after each game. This makes sure both players experience conditions on both sides of the table. You also change ends when the first player reaches five points in the final game of a match.

Format of the Tournament

We will start with an initial round robin of 4-5 players or teams (for the open age competition) in each group. A round robin is where a group of players or teams play all other competitors in the group. For example, if there are four teams in the group, each team will play the other three.

Then the winners of each group will follow a knockout (single elimination) format. Players and teams that get eliminated from competing for the gold medals will still be able to compete for ranks.