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## **KIWANIS Magazine**

**October 2012—Fundraising**

Table tennis tourney  
Key Club of Bradenton Christian High School, Florida  
38 members  
Net: US\$605  
Kristen Truong, 2011-12 club president

Clubs that plan a table tennis tournament need to plan at least three months in advance. A checklist is very helpful when planning the event. A simple checklist would include: venue, Ping Pong tables (paddles and balls), the bracket (for game pairings), keepsakes, awards, snacks and drinks, publicity and preregistration.

Clubs need to reserve a gymnasium or another large inside space. Once the location is set, clubs need to make sure that they have the tables and the transportation of the tables to and from the venue set. If the tournament is at a gym with waxed floors, be sure to get sliders on the bottom of the tables so that they do not scratch the floor.

Clubs need to decide whether they want to have a singles or doubles tournament, or both. My club had both a singles and doubles tournament. We had the singles go first and then the doubles. We charged \$5 for each singles player and \$10 for a doubles team. We did pre-registration and also registration on the day of the event. I would *strongly* recommend pre-registration. My club had a double-elimination tournament. It is up to each club whether they would like to do a double-elimination tournament, which take longer and require more organization of the bracket.

They'll need at least six Ping Pong tables. We recommend that clubs do not have less than six tables. When they reserve the tables, be sure to also get at least four balls and two paddles per table (at least four paddles per table if the club plans to also have a doubles tournament). Clubs also need to reserve regular tables and chairs. We used a total of five tables (registration, trophies, food/drinks, T-shirts/hoodies/bracelets and an extra one for materials). In our gym, we had bleachers; however, if clubs do not have bleachers in their venue, they will definitely want to get chairs for spectators and players resting between games.

Clubs need to either create a bracket or get one off the Internet. This is when pre-registration helps. Clubs need to assign one or two people to be in charge of the bracket. More than two people for the bracket gets confusing. The person or persons in charge of the bracket only do that the entire time of the tournament.

The BCS Ping Pong to Eliminate Tournament did not have an age limit. We allowed anyone of any age to play with them, understanding that they will be playing with those who are younger or older. We had one boy who was 9-years-old and was amazing! He made it to the semi-finals for singles. We also had a man who had won several state championships in Alaska.

Publicity is very important. My club had a small article in our local newspaper about a week before the tournament. We received many calls and e-mails with inquiries about the tournament after the article was published. Without this extra publicity, our tournament would not have been as successful. Also, invite your newspaper to attend the tournament, so they can report on it. We had a [good-size article](#) the day after our tournament in our newspaper. We promoted The Eliminate Project with the tournament and also Key Club, because we organized the tournament. This was also an inter-club because we included local Kiwanis clubs and other Key Clubs in our area.

My club had custom silicone wristbands made for the tournament. We ordered them from [www.wrist-band.com](http://www.wrist-band.com). We ordered 200 adult-size, printed, solid color "black" wristbands with "light blue" text color. They cost a total of \$81.99, which my club paid for (100 percent of money raised went towards The Eliminate Project). They said "Ping Pong to Eliminate" on one side and "BCS Key Club" on the other. The participants loved these wristbands, and they were cheap too. I still see people wearing the wristbands seven months later. We also sold these bracelets for \$2 each.

We had a small side fundraiser for The Eliminate Project: food, drinks and clothing. We had a club member's family donate all of the snacks and drinks, so that 100 percent of the sales would go towards The Eliminate Project. We had soda, Gatorade and water in

coolers. My club also sold our club T-shirts and hoodies with 100 percent of the proceeds going towards The Eliminate Project.

My club had custom trophies made for the tournament. There were three lines engraved on the trophies. The first said "1st Place, 2nd Place or 3rd Place". The second said "Ping Pong to Eliminate." The third said "January 21, 2012 (the date)." Clubs can decide whether they want trophies for all three places or for just first place.

A couple members created a banner, which said "Ping Pong to Eliminate". Throughout the gym, we had descriptions about The Eliminate Project and maternal/neonatal tetanus (MNT). Be sure to have money boxes or bags. We had two money boxes at the registration and food/drinks tables and one money bag where we sold T-shirts, hoodies and bracelets. We also had a receipt book for anyone who donated money directly to The Eliminate Project.

Judges are optional for the tourney. Judges are present mostly to keep score and ensure all rules are being followed. When participants entered the tournament, they checked in and then received a small paper which had all of our rules listed on them.

We began set up at 10:30 a.m. and had all Ping Pong tables in our gym by 11:30 a.m. Our set-up was finished by 12:30 p.m. Each club will have a different layout according to its venue. Our tournament took place from 1 to 4 p.m., which was just enough time for a singles and doubles tournament. We finished clean up around 5:30 p.m. We raised \$605 for The Eliminate Project in just three hours!