

A. Laws of The Game

- i. The Laws shall be those of the Badminton England "Laws of Badminton".
- ii. Local by-laws shall be made known to the away team captain prior to commencement of play.

B. Eligibility of Players

- i. Any player participating in Leagues organised by the Association must be a bona fide member of the club they represent. The player must be affiliate to their county badminton association and Badminton England within 28 days of their first appearance. Failure to comply with the above may result in their games being deemed null and void and points could be deducted.
- ii. A player may be registered for one club only in each league. Players registration forms must be signed by the player, countersigned by the Club Secretary. Where a player is under 18 years of age the registration form must be countersigned by a parent or guardian. Registration forms must be received by the League Secretary at least three clear days before the date of the players first match.
- iii. For each team entered in the league, a club must register, on the team players' registration list, a minimum of six bona fide members for the team for which it is intended they will play. This team players' registration list shall be submitted to the appropriate League Secretary by the 12th September in any year, or three clear days before the team's first scheduled match, whichever is earlier. Failure to do so will result in the team being deducted the maximum number of points available for winning a match. The deduction will be made at the beginning of the season.
- iv. Any team who nominate a player and that player is not used at least once during season, without exceptional reason, will be deducted the maximum number of points awarded for one win at the end of the season for each unused player. If a club only have one team in a league or this is the last team for clubs with more than one team in a league then this rule does not apply.
- v. A player registered for a lower team may play three times in total for higher teams of the Club, but any player playing four times in total for higher teams will automatically become registered for the next highest team for which the player has played. Previous appearances for higher teams will still count towards a further application of this rule. A player registered for a higher team shall not play for a lower team without the previous sanction of the committee.
- vi. Additional player's registrations shall be submitted to the appropriate League Secretary at least three clear days prior to the player's first match. Games won by unregistered players shall be forfeited and awarded to the opposition. For

example if a player's first match is on a Friday, the registration form must be with the appropriate League Secretary by midnight on the previous Monday.

- vii. A player cannot transfer without the approval of the committee from 30th June to 31st December.
- viii. A player transferred after 1st March will not be eligible to play for their new Club, in any league during the current season without the approval of the committee.
- ix. A new registration/transfer card must be submitted to the appropriate League Secretary whenever a player changes club. The transfer details must be signed by both Club Secretaries. Where a player is under 18 years of age the registration form must be countersigned by a parent or guardian. Registration/transfer cards must be received by the League Secretary at least three clear days before the date of the players first match.
- x. Any player not participating in the leagues for two consecutive seasons shall have their registration withdrawn automatically and returned to the appropriate Club Secretary. If re-entering the leagues at a later date a player must then be re-registered.
- xi. A player may cancel a registration from one or more Leagues (Mens, Ladies, Mixed, Masters and Youth) from 1st May until 30th June. The player must notify relevant League Secretaries, the Association Secretary and Club Secretary and have received acknowledgement from either the League Secretary or Association Secretary by 1st July. Notification and acknowledgment can be via email or letter

C. Composition of Teams

- i. The composition of teams in the league will be as follows:-
 - (a) Mens Doubles 3 Pairs
 - (b) Mixed Doubles 3 Pairs
 - (c) Ladies Doubles 2 Pairs
- ii. Pairings for the full match shall be exchanged simultaneously by both Captains before the match commences and shall not subsequently be altered except with the consent of the opposing Captain.

D. League Match Play

- i. All Leagues' matches shall consist of 2 teams of six players, except ladies where each team shall consist of 4 players. Each match will consist of 9 rubbers consisting of 2 games to 21, except ladies which shall consist of 6 rubbers consisting of 2 games to 21. If the score becomes 20-all, the side which gains a

two point lead first, shall win that game. If the score becomes 29-all, the side scoring the 30th point shall win that game. Play must be continuous in a rubber.

- ii. The matches will be played in the following order for mens and mixed, unless agreed otherwise by the team Captains before the match starts.

Game Number 1 – Home Pair 2 v Away Pair 1

Game Number 2 – Home Pair 1 v Away Pair 3

Game Number 3 – Home Pair 3 v Away Pair 2

Game Number 4 – Home Pair 2 v Away Pair 3

Game Number 5 – Home Pair 3 v Away Pair 1

Game Number 6 – Home Pair 1 v Away Pair 2

Game Number 7 – Home Pair 3 v Away Pair 3

Game Number 8 – Home Pair 2 v Away Pair 2

Game Number 9 – Home Pair 1 v Away Pair 1

For ladies the following order of play shall be followed (with the ranking in strength order with strongest at #1)

Game number 1 – players 2 & 3 home vs players 2 & 3 away

Game number 2 – players 1 & 4 home vs players 1 & 4 away

Game number 3 – players 2 & 4 home vs players 2 & 4 away

Game number 4 – players 1 & 3 home vs players 1 & 3 away

Game number 5 – players 3 & 4 home vs players 3 & 4 away

Game number 6 – players 1 & 2 home vs players 1 & 2 away

- iii. In the event of a club fielding a short team, no pair may be divided in order to complete the fixture and the games which are not played shall be forfeited to the opposing team.
- iv. 1 point shall be awarded for each game won and in addition 3 points shall be awarded for a match won or additional 1 point to each team shall be awarded for a match drawn.
- v. All league matches shall be played with a cork based feather shuttlecock or a cork based synthetic feathered shuttlecock.

E. Starting Times

- i. All matches are scheduled to start between 7.00 pm and 8.00 pm unless a different time has been agreed by the committee.
- ii. If a team has no pair ready for play within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time it shall be liable to forfeit one rubber 21-0, 21-0 and shall similarly be liable to forfeit a further rubber if no pair is ready to play for each 15 minutes thereafter. Any claim under this rule must be clearly indicated on the match result sheet and signed by both team captains.

- iii. No pair shall be expected to play its three rubbers in succession, without break, unless agreed by both captains.
- iv. If any pair due on court is not available for play after completion of the previous game the team shall be liable to forfeit one rubber 21-0, 21-0. Any claim under this rule must be clearly indicated on the match result sheet and signed by both team captains.
- v. All preparations necessary for play to commence shall be completed within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time otherwise the home team will be liable to forfeit one rubber 21-0, 21-0 and shall similarly be liable to forfeit further rubbers if the court is not ready for play for each 15 minutes thereafter. Any claim under this rule must be clearly indicated on the match result sheet and signed by both team captains.

F. Non completion of Matches

- i. It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that sufficient time is available for a match to be completed.
- ii. If a club is obliged to vacate its premises before a match has been completed, the home club shall forfeit all outstanding games, unless the away team has contravened rule E(ii) in any way.
- iii. Should a team give two walkovers in any season, this will result in disciplinary action against the offending club unless this is due to exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the club and agreed with the Committee. This would be forfeiture of Club deposit and withdrawal of the team's results from the League Table. This would not prevent the team completing their remaining fixtures but the results of these matches would not be considered when compiling the League Tables.

G. Fixture Dates

- i. Fixture dates and times shall be as decided by the committee and published.
- ii. All clubs will play the fixtures on the dates stated on Association/WCBA website. In the event of unavailability of normal team players through sickness etc., the Club will field appropriately registered reserves
- iii. In those cases where halls are not available on the date shown, the appropriate League Secretary and opposing Club Secretary must be informed in advance. Failure to inform the League Secretary will result in the cancellation being treated as a late match sheet. The offending home club shall offer at least two alternative dates to the opposing club that are not on a scheduled match date already submitted to the League Secretary, and giving at least 4 weeks notice,

except by prior agreement. Any club not complying with this rule will forfeit the match.

- iv. Any fixtures which fall on the weekend of the Junior and Senior Swindon and District Championships may be arranged to accommodate players wishing to play in the Championships.
- v. Should a W.H. Bicknell Trophy, Fiddes or Wilson Lee match and a league match fall on the same date then the Cup match takes priority and the league match may be re-arranged if necessary.

H. Match Results

- i. Match result sheets must be signed by both Captains and sent by the home Club to the appropriate League Secretary to arrive not later than the Wednesday of the week following the match. (Note match weeks commence on Monday).
- ii. Failure to comply with rule H (i) and G (iii) will result in the offending club being fined 50p for the first late sheet, the fine shall increase by increments of 50p per subsequent late sheet. For example; £1 for the second, £1.50 for the third, £2.00 for the fourth and so forth.

I. Team Withdrawals

- i. If a team withdraws from the league, all games played by that team shall be null and void.

J. Divisions

- i. All divisions in each league shall consist of five or six teams, subject to there being a minimum of thirty teams in the league. No division of five teams shall be at a higher level than a division of six teams. Divisions in a League of less than thirty teams shall be allocated at the Committee's discretion.
- ii. In each division, the total number of match points won shall determine the final position of each team.
- iii. In the event of a tie on points the team with the lesser number of game points scored against them shall be placed in the higher position, except at the top of Division One where a play-off shall decide which team shall be declared champions. The date of the play-offs will be set by the committee at the start of each season.
- iv. At the end of the season the two top teams shall be promoted and the bottom two teams shall be relegated from each division, except between Divisions One and Two where the top team in Division Two shall be promoted and the bottom team from Division One shall be relegated. Where a League has 2 divisions the

two top teams shall be promoted from Division Two and the bottom two teams shall be relegated from Division One.

- v. If a team withdraws from a division or is withdrawn by the committee, then they automatically fill one of the relegation places. If a team does not re-enter the next season, then the space they create is filled by promoting further teams from the division below.

K. Complaints/Disputes

- i. In the first instance, any appeal or protest should be sent to the appropriate league secretary, who will make the initial decision. Either club can appeal, to the main committee, against the league secretary's decision. The main committee or the appropriate league secretary, as the case may be, shall not reach a decision without first giving both clubs the opportunity to state their case.