

# **Leeds & District Badminton League**

## **Standing Rules**

### **Officers**

1. The Officers of the League shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, and shall be Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Match Results Secretaries, Handicap Secretary, Registration Secretary, and others as required. The AGM has the power to appoint Vice-Presidents.
2. Should the AGM fail to elect any Officer, the following standby system shall be adopted:

All League Clubs having more than 2 years continued league membership and not currently providing an Officer shall be entered into a ballot for each Officer not appointed. A Club drawn from the ballot shall provide, for one year, the Officer whose position is the subject of the ballot. By this system no Club will be required to provide more than one Officer in any one year and Clubs having provided an Officer, by ballot, shall be excluded from ballots for the next 20 years. It shall be a condition of the League entry that Clubs accept this system of election and failure to fulfil the obligations inherent in this will warrant exclusion from the League.

### **Committees**

3. The affairs of the League shall be conducted by the League Committee, which shall compose the Officers and one delegate from each Club. An individual may only represent one Club.
4. League Committee meetings will normally be held in September and December, the dates to be determined by the Secretary.
5. The business of the League shall be administered by an Executive Committee which shall comprise of the Officers who should meet as necessary, reporting to the League Committee. This Committee shall have the power to co-opt other members as necessary. The Executive will have the power to make a ruling on any given rule where the interpretation is not explicit, or where any matter is not covered by the rules.

6. The AGM shall appoint a Team Trophy Handicap Committee and must include the Match Results Secretaries.

7. A quorum for the League Committee shall be one-third of the total number of that Committee and for all other Committees the quorum shall be half of their total number.

8. Clubs not represented at League Committee Meetings shall be fined an amount determined by the AGM.

9. All complaints and/or match disputes shall be reported in writing to the Match Secretary of the division concerned and will be dealt with by the disputes committee, which shall comprise, the Match Secretaries, who shall report their findings to the Executive Committee. Appeals against decisions made by the disputes committee can be made to the League Secretary in writing and these will be dealt with by the Executive Committee, whose decision will be final.

### **Fees and Accounts**

10. Entry fees for the League (including the provision of one score book per team), Team Handicap Competitions, Player Registration Fees (which shall include a handbook taking the form of a Membership Card), meeting and other fines shall be fixed at the AGM.

11. The entry fee, as is specified on the entry form, must accompany the entry form.

12. Clubs must pay accounts to the Treasurer within 30 days of submission of the account; otherwise a fine will be added to the account. Any club not having cleared their account by 31<sup>st</sup> May shall not be eligible for league Membership for the following season.

13. Any Club or individual who accepts a trophy must return it to the League as requested, or they will be held financially liable as decided by the Executive Committee.

14. Home Clubs are responsible for all costs associated with the provision of court time, including any admission fees to the hall.

## **Annual General Meeting**

15. The Annual General Meeting, (AGM), shall be held in June and 14 days notice shall be given of such a meeting. The Secretary is empowered to call an Emergency General Meeting at the request of the Executive or League Committee.

Voting at the Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting will be on the basis of a card count. Cards will be distributed to each Club, on the basis of one card where up to 3 teams have completed the previous season and 2 cards, where more than 3 teams have completed the previous season. An individual may only use the cards to vote for one Club. Proxy and postal voting will not be permitted.

The Officers shall have one vote each, with the Chairman having an additional casting vote in the event of a tie.

16. Rule changes can only be submitted by League Clubs or by the Executive committee. Individuals must submit proposed rule changes through their own Club. Members of the Executive committee can submit proposed rule changes to the Executive committee.

17. Rule changes can only be made at the Annual or an Extraordinary General Meeting. Proposed amendments to rules for consideration at the AGM must be submitted in writing to the Executive Secretary by the end of April. Proposed rule changes will be disseminated to clubs in a timely fashion to allow clubs to discuss potential changes internally prior to general discussion and voting at the AGM. Rule changes are subject to gaining a two thirds majority vote.

## **League Entry**

18. Application for membership from existing Clubs for the following season should reach the Secretary no later than 30<sup>th</sup> June to ensure that the Clubs team(s) maintain their League position. Applications received after that date could result in the forfeiture of their previous end of season position.

The Executive has the power to recommend to the AGM, that an existing Club's membership be terminated in whole or part. Such termination will be subject to the normal two-thirds majority vote.

19. Application for League membership from new Clubs shall be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

20. Membership of the League commences on an application being accepted.

21. Membership of the League is subject to Clubs having insurance cover for public liability. This cover shall be obtained through the League, or if Clubs are covered by other arrangements, a letter to this effect should be sent to the League Treasurer.

### **Registration of Players**

22. Players may not register with more than one Club for Mixed Leagues, but may register with another Club for Gents or Ladies Leagues.

23. All players taking part in the first match for each team, must have been registered with the Registration Secretary in writing at least 7 days prior to the match.

For Clubs entering more than one team in any section, the registration form should clearly identify 6 players against every team except the lowest one entered. Should a team not be defined in this way the first 6 players appearing for that team will be deemed to be the registered players.

A registered player is tied to the team specified on the registration form, or if not specified by an appearance in the first match. Tied players may not play for a lower team, except on transfer, (see rules 26 and 27).

24. Additional members may also be pre-registered with the Registration Secretary at the beginning or throughout the season. However, once a team has completed its first match, additional players may also be registered to play by highlighting the new name on the score sheet the first time the player is required to play and clearly stating on the reverse that the player is to be registered.

25. If a player plays 3 times with ANY higher team, he or she becomes automatically registered with the immediate highest team, or the team with which he or she has played 3 times and may play in no lower team without transfer.

## **Transfers**

26. Applications for transfer must be made to the Registrations Secretary.

27. A player may be transferred from a higher team to a lower team of the same Club with the consent of the Registration Secretary at any time from the commencement of the season to the 31<sup>st</sup> December and cannot appear for the original team, or any higher team than the original team again during that season. A player transferring down is able to play for a lower team immediately following the consent of the Registration Secretary. Applications for transfer must be submitted indicating the reason for the transfer and the name of the replacement who will be tied to the new team from the transfer date.

28. A player may transfer from one club to another at any time with the consent of the two clubs concerned and the Registration Secretary, but cannot play for the new or old club in League matches until 7 days have elapsed from the transfer being granted. If the Clubs disagree; the matter will be put before the next Executive meeting.

## **The League and Matches**

29. Badminton England rules shall apply in all cases except where modified by the League.

30. The League shall consist of:

- (a) A Mixed League.
- (b) A Gent's League.
- (c) A Ladies' League.

31. Teams shall consist of 3 appropriate pairs for each section. Teams failing to field 6 players (registered or unregistered) shall

be deducted one rubber from the final score, and if in default more than twice in a season will be relegated at the discretion of the committee.

Any team found to have played a match using players other than those written on the score sheet, will forfeit any such points gained by the falsely named players and will automatically be relegated 2 divisions.

32. Scoring will be in rubbers. A rubber is the best of 3 games of 21 aces. Extended play will take place in all games upon the score reaching 20 all. At 20 all, the side which gains a 2 point lead wins that game. Should the score reach 29 all, the side scoring the next point wins the game. Players shall change ends at the commencement of the second and third games and on leading score, first to 11, of aces in the third game.

33. All matches must be played during the week stated by the League fixture list, unless both clubs agree to an alternative date. All matches must be finished by the 30 of April.

Where two or more teams from the same club are playing in the same division, matches between these teams for the first half of the season must be played in October, and for the second half of the season in January. Should this not occur, matches may be considered void at the discretion of the committee and no points will be awarded to either team.

The only valid reason for postponing a match is the unavailability of the court(s), in which case the home team must provide an alternative agreeable fixture.

34. Any team which fails to arrive for an agreed fixture, or which communicates its inability to fulfil an agreed fixture will be considered to have defaulted, unless both teams agree to a rearrangement.

If the rearranged match is not played, the team requesting the initial postponement will be deemed to have defaulted.

35. A defaulting team will have 11 points deducted. The opposing team will be awarded the average number of points gained against the defaulting team, rounded, to the nearest integer, or the

average number of points rounded, to the nearest integer, gained by them over the season whichever is the higher.

If any team defaults on more than one occasion in a season, they may be relegated at the discretion of the League Committee.

36. It will be the responsibility of the home team's Secretary or Match Secretary to offer and arrange with opponents the date and time of play. The home team has the right to decide on the date of play.

37. All teams must adhere to their starting times which must be stated in the handbook. Unless agreed otherwise, a team failing to be in a position to play all 3 rubbers within 10 minutes of the start time will forfeit the last 1, 2 or 3 rubbers dependant on the number of rubbers which could not be started. Further rubbers in descending order shall be forfeited for every additional 10 minutes rubbers are delayed by late arrivals.

Where teams are present but prevented from playing due to the inability to get on court, such forfeits will not apply.

38. Timed matches are allowed to accommodate Clubs who have to vacate their hall by a specified time. In this case the time available for matches to be played must be shown against the home Club in the League handbook. Any rubber(s) not started within 20 minutes of the published finish time must be changed to one game of 21 points, ends being changed on one pair reaching 11 points. There will be extended play should the score reach 20 all. Should this match still not be completed, then any incomplete rubber(s) will not count. Timed matches must provide a minimum of 3.5 court hours for the match and play is to be continuous.

39. If a Club has 2 matches running simultaneously at the same venue, unless agreed otherwise by all teams involved, players may only play in one of these matches in order to prevent disruption to the order and flow of matches.

40. Home Clubs must communicate any alteration to the handbook which affects playing of matches, e.g. match night or venue. This communication must be made to the Club concerned at least 7 days before the match is due to be played.

41. Match results on current forms should be posted/e mailed to the appropriate Match Results Secretary by **EACH** Club within 5 days of the match. Failure to do so will result in the offending Club being fined, the amount decided at the AGM.

42. In the event of one Club sending a short team, no couple may be divided in order to complete the fixture and the rubbers un-played will be forfeited to the opposing team.

43. In the event of both teams being incomplete the un-played rubbers shall not count.

44. A player injured in a match may be substituted by a reserve, providing play is not held up for more than 10 minutes. A player having been substituted can take no further part in the match. Play by substitutes shall not count as tying him or her to that team. The substitute player must be registered for the Club as being equal or lower division status. A substitute can only play from the start of the next rubber following the injury and must be named on the score sheet.

45. Home teams will supply shuttles which conform to specifications agreed by a simple majority at the AGM. Any problems arising from the availability of conforming shuttles, or the use of unsuitable shuttles will be resolved by the Executive Committee. Shuttles may be either feather or plastic construction. Feather shuttles used shall be tournament quality and a speed appropriate to the courts where they are used. The currently agreed plastic shuttle(s) is Yonex Mavis 370.

47. Any person officiating during any match shall only be considered a scorer and any dispute arising during a match shall be settled by the Captains and failing that, the Executive Committee. All home teams should, wherever possible, be responsible for providing a courtside scorer.

48. During play recognised racket sports clothing must be worn.

## **Match Points**

49. 11 points will be awarded for each match. One point for each rubber, plus 2 points to the winning team. For timed matches, the winning side at the cessation of play will be awarded the 2 points. In the event of a draw, one point will be awarded to each team.

In the event of teams finishing with an equal number of points at the end of the season, the higher position will be awarded to the team with the larger game difference, (games won less games lost) and if still all square, by point's difference.

## **Promotion and Relegation**

50. In the Mixed League and Gent's and Ladies' Leagues, the top two teams shall normally be promoted and the bottom two teams shall normally be relegated.

51. Adjustments to increase or decrease a Division shall be done by varying the number of teams promoted or relegated.

52. Any team which should have been relegated, but retained higher status due to adjustment of division numbers, shall be relegated the following year if they finish in a relegation position and will not retain higher status if adjustment in division numbers is necessary for the season.

53. All automatic relegation will be carried out before any normal promotion or relegation rules apply. An automatically relegated team will not be eligible for promotion where such adjustments for short divisions are necessary.

Any automatically relegated team forfeits the right to any trophy won in that division.

54. No division shall normally exceed 8 teams or be less than 6. New teams wishing to join the League will be accepted as long as such additions make it possible to maintain divisions of 6 or more. Where this is not possible, any new teams allowed will be included on a first come basis.

If team numbers in any division equal 5 or less, a fixture pattern will be adopted in which the teams play each other 4 times.

55. Should a Club, on re-application to the League wish to completely withdraw higher placed teams, but retain lower placed teams, then such adjustments will be allowable. Teams will be re-named accordingly. Adjustments caused by such withdrawals will be treated as for rule 51. Should such requests be made after the formal re-application has been received then the Executive Committee will have the right to decide each case on its merits.

### **Team Handicap Trophy Competitions**

1. The following rules shall be deemed to be supplementary to the Leeds and District Badminton League Standing Rules; which shall be applicable as far as possible.

2. The Executive committee shall decide which Trophies will be competed for in the different Leagues and for which of the respective divisions shall compete for the Selected Trophies.

3. All teams entered in the League shall automatically be entered in their respective Handicap Trophy, the entry fee being fixed at the AGM. Any team not wishing to enter must have indicated this on the entry form, or they will be liable to pay the entry fee.

4. The respective rounds shall be played in the specific weeks set aside by the Officers and shall be played during the set week, but certainly not later than 7 days after the stated week. The rounds will normally be played monthly, commencing in December.

5. Any player registered with a Leeds League Club on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> November of the current season, who has played in at least one match by this date within the respective Mixed, Gents or Ladies Leagues shall be eligible to play for that Club in the appropriate Handicap Trophy Competition. However, reserves may be played in the lowest team, (including a single team), in each League without the requirement for them to have played previously, but subject to registration by 30<sup>th</sup> November in the appropriate Mixed, Gents or Ladies Leagues.

A player tied to a higher team in a Club may not play in its lower team. Lower team members may however play for the higher teams without penalty as far as tying is concerned. Transferred players retain their pre-transfer status and are not eligible to play

for their new teams or Clubs in the Handicap Trophy Competition unless they have played at least 3 times in the new team or Club before 30<sup>th</sup> November.

6. Each team shall be allotted a handicap by the committee of so many points per match. 2 straight games are to be played in each rubber. The match shall consist of 9 rubbers to be played as decided by the AGM. All handicaps will include half a point to avoid any drawn matches.

7. Matches will be decided on total points to 21 each game with no extended play allowed.

Each match shall be played to its natural conclusion, even if this means the match being continued into a second evening, providing the match commenced on time. If not, normal League rules to apply, (i.e. 42 points per rubber be forfeited).

8. In the event of a Club drawn at home and in any round being unable to play at home during the allotted period, they must play on their opponent's court or forfeit the match. The Handicap Secretary should be notified of any venue change.

9. Any points scored by ineligible players shall be forfeited and the opposing team shall count 42 points for each such rubber.

10. The final of each competition will be played on courts arranged by the Executive Committee.

11. Any points not covered by the above rules will be dealt with by the Executive Committee.

12. Results sheets must be posted/e mailed by the winning team captain to Handicap Secretary within 3 days of the completion of the match. Failure to do so will result in the offending club being fined, the amount decided at the AGM.