

NORTHUMBERLAND BADMINTON ASSOCIATION INTER-CLUB LEAGUE RULES

Leagues

1. The Leagues shall be known as the **Northumberland Badminton Association Inter-club Leagues**
2. The Leagues shall be composed exclusively of teams from clubs affiliated to the Northumberland Badminton Association or to the Durham County Badminton Association.

3. Fixtures

- 3.1 Each club shall send a copy of its league fixture list to the League Secretary not later than four weeks after the Annual League Fixture Meeting otherwise a penalty shall be applied. (see clause 5.3 below).
- 3.2 If a club is not represented at the Annual League Fixture Meeting, then a fine to be set by the League Secretary will be imposed on that club. It is the responsibility of the non-attending club to contact the opposition in order to arrange its fixtures. Any fixture not arranged by the non-attending club will be forfeited.
- 3.3 It is the responsibility of the home club to confirm the date, time and venue of each match with the visiting club not later than seven days before the fixture date. (See note A1).
- 3.4 Matches shall be played as arranged at the Annual League Fixture Meeting. A match may be postponed for the following reasons only:
 - a) Inability of the home team to obtain a suitable hall
 - b) Non-availability of players due to representative commitments (e.g. county matches or equivalent)
- 3.5 Each team **must** play a minimum of 3 matches before 31st December in any season. Any team failing to do so will be penalised -3 points
- 3.6 In exceptional circumstances a match may be postponed for other reasons provided this is **agreed by both clubs and approved in advance by the League Secretary**. (See note A2).

4. Organisation of leagues

- 4.1 There shall be three leagues: Ladies, Men's and Mixed Doubles. Feather shuttlecocks shall be used for all matches.
- 4.2 Each League shall consist of one or more divisions, normally of 5 teams. In exceptional circumstances there may be a different number at the discretion of the League Secretary.
- 4.3 A club may enter any number of teams in any combination of leagues. Within a given division a club may be represented by a maximum of **TWO** teams.
- 4.4 Teams shall play one **HOME** fixture and one **AWAY** fixture against each of the other teams in the division during the course of a season. Where a club has two teams in a division the fixtures between those two teams shall be played before any other fixture.
- 4.5 In each division **ONE** team shall be promoted to a higher division and **ONE** team shall be relegated to a lower division at the end of each season. In the event of the team finishing first in a division being ineligible for promotion (because two teams from the same club are playing in the higher division) then the most highly placed eligible team shall be promoted provided that it has won more matches than it has lost during the course of the season.

In the event of the team finishing last in a division being relegated to a lower division in which there are already two teams from the same club, then the lowest placed team in that lower division shall be relegated also.

EXCEPTION: When a sixth team is included in a division (as a result of uneven numbers of teams in the league) **TWO** teams shall be relegated whenever reorganisation into divisions of five teams occurs.

- 4.6 (a) The following division points will be awarded for each match:

For a match won 7 rubbers to 2 rubbers or better, 3 points

For a match won 6 rubbers to 3 or 5 rubbers to 4, 2 points

For a match lost 4 rubbers to 5 or 3 rubbers to 6, 1 point

For a match lost 2 rubbers to 7 or worse 0 points

(b) The winner of a Division shall be the team which wins the most number of division points, subject to full scores having been sent to the League Secretary as required by rule 7.9 unless a team wins all of its' matches when it shall automatically be declared the winner.

(c) Should two or more teams be equal on division points, the total number of matches won shall decide; if two or more teams are still equal the total number of rubbers won shall decide. If teams are still equal then the greatest difference between games won and games lost shall decide. If two teams are still equal then the number of division points won in the matches between them shall decide. If there is still no decision or if three or more teams are equal, the difference between number of individual points won and lost shall decide.

- 4.7 If there is a promotion or relegation issue brought about by a concession to any of the teams involved, the issue shall be decided excluding the results from the offending team or teams.

- 4.8 All matches shall be played before March 31st. **Permission should be sought from the League Secretary for any matches to be played after this date.** (See note A3).

5. **Eligibility of players**

- 5.1 In a given league a player shall represent **ONE CLUB ONLY** during the course of a season. A player may represent different clubs in each of several leagues provided that he or she is a bona fide, subscription-paying member of each club represented **and is affiliated through that club to the Northumberland Badminton Association.**

- 5.2 Where a club has two or more teams in a given league the following rules should be followed;

For all teams except the lowest team in each league, the club must nominate a minimum of SIX players for each of its' proposed teams before that team's first match of the season (In the case of mixed 3 men and 3 ladies). Players it is intended to play regularly in a team should be nominated for that team. Clubs should make their nominations in the spirit of the competition. (See note A4).

A nominated player must play a minimum of 2 of the first 3 matches for the team to which he or she is nominated in the season. Should the player concerned play for a team in a higher division in the same league before the date of the third match of their nominated team, any such matches played would count towards the total. The League Secretary must be notified immediately with reasons, if any player cannot fulfil this requirement.

Nominated players may not play for a team below that to which they are nominated.

A player who has played a total of THREE times for higher teams in the current season shall not be eligible to play for a lower team.

- 5.3 If nominations for each higher team and a fixture list are not received by the League Secretary within 4 weeks of the fixture meeting a penalty of -3 points shall be applied to each league team from that club. Failure to nominate players for a team will result in all players on the first scorecard of the season being the players nominated for that team.

6. **Courts and Halls**

- 6.1 Badminton courts used in league matches shall be of regulation size and have a minimum clearance of 300mm between court and any wall or obstruction and a minimum height of 5.5m between floor and any ceiling, beam or other structural feature which could give rise to a "fault " if struck by the shuttlecock during play.

- 6.2 A minimum of SIX court hours shall be made available for each match. Except by mutual agreement, the

starting time shall be such as to permit a match of minimum duration to be completed by 10.30pm. Before play commences the home team shall inform the visiting team of any time limit in force.

- 6.3 A visiting team shall comply with any local rule in force, and any such rule shall be explained to the visiting team before play commences.

7. **Matches**

- 7.1 Matches shall be played in accordance with the laws of badminton as published by Badminton England.
- 7.2 In mixed doubles leagues each club shall be represented by three mixed doubles pairs, in ladies' doubles leagues by three ladies' doubles pairs, and in men's doubles leagues by three men's doubles pairs ranked strictly in order of merit. Whenever possible the match should be played in the following order:-
1v1, 2v2, 3v3, 2v1, 3v2, 1v3, 3v1, 1v2, 2v3.
- 7.3 A completed match shall consist of nine rubbers in which each pair plays against each of the three opposing pairs. If it is absolutely unavoidable, rather than a match being conceded it is permissible for a team to field two pairs only, forfeiting the three un-played rubbers.
- 7.4 A rubber shall consist of the best of three games of 21 points except that if the score reaches 20-all the winner is the pair with a lead of 2 clear points or whose score reaches 30 first.
- 7.5 Matches shall start promptly at the time arranged. The start time for a weekday evening match shall not be before 6.30 p.m. unless agreed by both clubs beforehand. (See note A5)
- 7.6 In the event of a match being terminated before completion but after more than six court hours of play, the team leading at the end of play shall be the winner. Unfinished rubbers shall not be counted. Should the number of rubbers won be even, then the team leading in the unfinished rubber(s) on (1) games, (2) points shall be credited with the deciding rubbers.
- 7.7 In the event of a match being terminated before completion because of unforeseen circumstances and after less than six court hours play, the match shall be replayed unless one team has already won five rubbers. Un-played rubbers shall not be counted.
- 7.8 In the event of a team being unable to fulfil a fixture, the opposition shall be awarded the match with 9 rubbers, 18 games, and 378 points. The club in default will be penalised -3 points. (See note A2)
- 7.9 It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure the full scorecard of any match reaches the League Secretary within 1 week of completion of the match.
- 7.10 Results of matches can be registered in one of two ways:-
1. by post on the pre-printed match result cards, signed by a member of each team
 2. by scanned copy of the pre-printed match result cards, signed by a member of each team, by email to results@northumberlandbadminton.org.

A point shall be deducted for any late/un-received results although 1 late result per team per season shall be allowed before this sanction is applied. (See note A3).

- 7.11 Prompt completion of the online proforma on the website <http://northumberlandbadminton.org/leagues/submit/#/> is desirable as it automatically sends a confirmation email to the opposing club and keeps leagues results up to date.

8. **Queries and Complaints**

Any query or complaint relating to inter-club league play should be referred to the league secretary whose decision in every case shall be final.

A **NOTES**

- A1 A genuine misunderstanding can sometimes prevent confirmation of a fixture in the normal way. Should the need arise a visiting club is advised to contact the home club in order to avoid the possibility of inconvenience to players.
- A2 Since an un-played fixture may compromise the fairness of competition between other clubs in the division, it raises serious questions about the standing of a club in default. It is essential, therefore, that the abandonment of a fixture be considered as a last resort.
- A3 Final league placing, promotions and relegations are calculated on **April 7th**. Clubs are credited with scores received by the league secretary on or before this date. Promotions and relegations are calculated prior to the following seasons league AGM.
- A4 The fairness of inter-club competition depends heavily on the strict observance of rules 3.5, 5.2, 5.3 & 7.10 and sanctions will be applied. Clubs with teams affected by changes in membership, long-term injury to players, change in player's form etc. are strongly advised to consult the League Secretary who will offer guidance on the re-nomination of players to teams.
- The League Secretary has the right to query any club, who do not appear to have nominated teams in accordance with the spirit of the competition.
- A5 It is anticipated that all teams will adopt a responsible and considerate attitude towards the opposition with regard to match starting times. Should a team feel that it has cause for complaint it is recommended that , firstly, the fixture be played if a start can be made within 30 minutes of the arranged time; and secondly, that the duration and cause of any delay are communicated to the league secretary as soon as possible. All relevant factors will then be taken into account in deciding to what extent a team at fault is to be penalised by amendment of the match score. If a team is late for a match, rubbers may only be claimed at the END of the evening if the match is not completed. Both teams must be in agreement to the number of rubbers claimed otherwise (as stated above) the league secretary must be consulted.
- A6 It is expected during league matches that all players will adhere to Badminton England's Code of Conduct for Players which can be found on the BE website at www.badmintonengland.co.uk.