

SOUTH WEST HERTS INDEPENDENT BADMINTON LEAGUE

Rules and Regulations

August 2011

General

1. The League will comprise Ladies Doubles (6 players and 4 players), Mens Doubles (6 players and 4 players), Mixed Doubles and Medley Doubles events operating in a league format. Medley A and B are separate leagues so there is no promotion or relegation between the leagues.
2. These rules and regulations shall apply to all events.
3. The League will be run by a committee of at least four members, chaired by the League Organiser and including the Match Results Coordinator(s). The Committee will be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting.
4. The committee shall meet at least once a season. Meetings may be called by the League Organiser on his own initiative or as a result of any committee member advising the League Organiser that a meeting is required. In the latter case, the League Organiser will arrange the meeting within 14 days of the call for such a meeting.
5. Among its duties, the committee will be responsible for:
 - The arrangement and organisation of the League.
 - The method of promotion and relegation between league divisions.
 - The settlement of any matters brought to their attention by any club
 - The arrangement and organisation of local tournaments.

Application to join the League

6. Application forms for entering the league events will be sent to all clubs each year and must be returned to the League Organiser by the date specified.
7. The Committee reserves the right to refuse the entry of a team into any event or into any division without assigning a reason and their decision shall be final.
8. The Committee may, at their discretion, promote or demote a team by more than one division.
9. All members playing in the League must be full members of the club.

Arrangement of fixtures

10. A fixture meeting will be arranged at the commencement of each season. At this meeting, the match dates for the coming season will be agreed between the clubs and entered into the fixture sheets provided for that purpose. Clubs that are unable to complete the fixture sheets on the night, must post their fixture details to the relevant Match Results Coordinator as soon as possible, but not later than two

weeks after the fixtures meeting.

11. All matches are to be completed by the end of April. Note that if a club has two teams in the same division they must play their games against each other before Christmas or all points awarded for games between these two teams after Christmas will be forfeited.

Registration of players

12. At the start of each season, each club must complete a Player Registration Form for each event entered which must show the surname and a first name for each player to be registered. The completed registration form must be sent to the appropriate Match Results Coordinator and postmarked at least three clear days before the team's first match or by 31st October if earlier.

Additional players can be registered in the same manner during the season, subject to the three clear days applying to the date of their first match for that team.

If an unregistered player plays in a match then the games in which he or she plays will be awarded to the opposition 21-0.

Nominated players and eligible players

13. Clubs entering more than one team in any event in the League must nominate on the Player Nomination Form:
 - 2 ladies and 2 men players in the Mixed event
 - 4 players in each of the Ladies (6 players) and Mens (6 players) events
 - 2 players in the Ladies 4 and Mens 4

and submit the completed nomination form to the appropriate Match Results Coordinator postmarked at least three clear days before that team's first match, otherwise Rule 15 will apply.

Nominated players must be submitted for every team in each event other than the lowest placed team in each event. It is expected that a nominated player will play a minimum of 50% of the fixtures for the team for which he/she is nominated.

14. In each event, the nominated players for a team are not eligible to play for a lower placed team in that same event.
15. If a club fails to notify the relevant Match Results Coordinator of the nominated players for any team in accordance with Rule 13 the first four eligible players (two for the Ladies 4 and Mens 4), as detailed on the match results sheet, will be deemed as being the nominated players for that team, in that event, for that season.
16. In each event, any player who plays in a higher placed team (or teams) on 3 or more occasions in a given season will no longer be eligible to play for a lower

placed team.

17. No player may play for more than one club in any one event during a season except with the permission of the League Organiser. This permission will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
18. The Medley A league is open to all players registered by their club for that event. The Medley B league is restricted to all players registered by their club for that event who have not played more than once in the Mixed league in Division 1 in the same season.

Failure of a club to field a team

19. Failure of a club to field a team for a match, other than for reasons of inclement weather or non-availability of playing facilities, shall result in that club conceding the match.
20. If two clubs mutually agree to change a fixture then the home team representative must, within 14 days of the original fixture date, notify the Match Results Coordinator of the new date. If a date cannot be agreed within that time, the home team must advise the Match Results Coordinator that the match did not take place but will be re-arranged. Also see rule 24.
21. Unless a team plays 75% of its fixtures in a season, all of its results for that season will be expunged. If such a team wishes to remain in the League for the following season, it may do so but will be relegated by one division.

Match result sheets

22. Team captains will exchange names of players before the first rubber of any match commences and no alterations shall be made thereafter except with the agreement of the opposing captain. The player's surname and first name must be as recorded on the Player Registration Form. For medley events and 4-person events, the score sheets, with names must be exchanged simultaneously, to avoid a team basing its player order on the order of the opponents. Any team refusing to exchange score sheets in this way will forfeit the match.
23. The home team will submit a fully completed official league result sheet to the Match Results Coordinator, signed by both captains, within 7 days of a match being played. The date of the postmark will be used to determine if the results were posted in time. Failure to submit results within this period will result in the awarding of the match to the away team.
24. Walkovers/conceded games will be scored as follows:
 - A win to love in rubbers, games, and points (aces) where a complete match is concerned.
 - A win to love in games and points (aces) where any rubber is concerned.
 - A win to love in points where any game is concerned.

In the event of a complete match being a walkover, the captain of the team

claiming the match must submit a match result sheet, including their team's surname and first names, reflecting the above scores.

If a cancelled match is to be re-arranged, but no mutually-convenient date can be agreed, the team who did not cancel (which will be credited with a win if the match is not re-arranged) must submit to the Match Results Coordinator, within 7 days of the original fixture date, a fully filled-in match results sheet, as above, with a note that the teams are trying to re-arrange but cannot agree a date. If the match is not re-arranged, this sheet will be used as the results sheet. If the match is re-arranged, and the re-arranged fixture is played, this score sheet will be replaced with the sheet from the re-arranged match.

Playing times for matches

25. Weekday matches may not be scheduled to start before 19:00 hours.
26. Home teams must specify a start and finish time and the number of courts available and both teams must have the appropriate number of players ready to play at that time. If either team fails to supply the required number of pairs, ready to play, within 15 minutes after the agreed time of starting, then a rubber may be claimed for each pair not ready to play and will be awarded to the opponents 21-0, 21-0. Thereafter, at intervals of 15 minutes, the opponents may claim further rubbers 21-0, 21-0. A pair more than 45 minutes late will forfeit all of their rubbers.

Alternatively, a team may waive its right to claim rubbers at the start of a match (as stated above) and agree to play the match with the proviso that should the match not be completed at the agreed finishing time, any uncompleted rubbers will be conceded by the team which was late. The team that was not late may agree to, but is not obliged to accept, playing the last three rubbers as a single game to **31**.

All disputes shall be referred back to the committee for resolution.

27. Adequate playing time for matches must be provided by the home club. If there is a possibility of the match not being completed on time, then prior to the commencement of the match, the home captain must notify the visiting captain that some rubbers may be played as one game to **31** points. If such notice is not given, then the visiting team will be awarded any incomplete rubbers to love, provided that both teams were willing and able to commence by the agreed start time. In the event that either team was not ready to commence on time, and there being insufficient time to complete the match, then the team that was late will forfeit any incomplete rubbers to love.

If after playing some rubbers to **31** points, there is still insufficient time to complete the match, then provided it commenced on time, any incomplete rubbers will become void and the score in rubbers at that time will constitute the final score.

28. As far as all matches are concerned, if the second round of rubbers has not finished before 23:00 hours, the visiting captain may elect to play the final round of

rubbers as single games to **31** points. The home captain may either accept this decision or concede the remaining rubbers.

Trophies

29. Shields will be awarded to the winners of all Divisions and these will be presented at the Annual General Meeting following the end of the season. Winners wishing to hold the shields in their possession until the end of the following season will be required to pay a deposit (the value of which will be determined by the Committee). The deposit will be refunded at the next AGM, provided that the winner has returned the shield to the League Organiser by the specified date.
Note – Trophies must be returned without fail to the League Organiser by 1st May otherwise the deposit will be forfeited.

Player behaviour

30. A player may not play in two matches at the same time. Nor shall a player play in their club night at the same time as playing in a match.

Shuttlecocks

31. All matches must be played with feathered shuttlecocks approved by the Committee.

Adjudication of disputes

32. The Committee will adjudicate on any subject not specifically covered by these regulations and will interpret these rules and regulations to solve disputes between clubs. All disputes must be submitted in writing to the League Organiser or the relevant Match Results Coordinator.