

SOUTH WEST HERTS BADMINTON LEAGUE

Rules and Regulations

General

1. The organisation shall be called SOUTH WEST HERTS BADMINTON LEAGUE, referred to below as SWHBL. It shall be affiliated to Badminton England (formally registered as Badminton Association of England Ltd) for the primary purpose of securing insurance for the Associated Clubs that partake in the leagues managed by SWHBL.
2. Membership of SWHBL is afforded to a club wishing to partake in matches facilitated by SWHBL and agree to be governed by these Rules & Regulations.
3. Club Association is renewed annually in accordance with published rates. Association is per club and NOT according to the number of teams entered in the league events by a club. Club Associated status is established upon full payment being received for the current playing season (normally September through to May).
4. Each fully paid-up club will have a single vote per item requiring a decision at an AGM or EGM.
5. The League will comprise Ladies Doubles (6 players and 4 players), Mens Doubles (6 players and 4 players), Mixed Doubles and Medley Doubles (6 players) events operating in a league format
6. These rules and regulations shall apply to all events.
7. 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.
8. The committee shall meet at least once a season. Meetings may be called by the League Organiser on their 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.
9. Matches shall be conducted in accordance with the laws of badminton.
10. 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

11. Application forms will be sent to all clubs prior to the start of the season. Completed forms must be returned to the League Co-ordinator and payment made to the Treasurer by the date specified.
12. 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.
13. The Committee may, at their discretion, promote or demote a team by more than one division.
14. All members playing in the League must be full members of the club and registered for that club with Badminton England.

Arrangement of fixtures

15. A fixtures 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~~ send their fixture details to the relevant Match Results Coordinator as soon as possible, but not later than two weeks after the fixtures meeting.
16. It is the responsibility of the clubs to ensure that the relevant Match Results Co-ordinator is notified of any mistakes/corrections identified after the fixtures meeting or of any changes to fixtures during the season.
17. 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 the match will be recorded as conceded by both teams.

Registration of players

18. All players must be registered with Badminton England with an active membership. Additional players can be registered in the same manner during the season. If an unregistered player plays in a match then the games in which he or she played will be awarded to the opposition 21-0. Unregistered players will be defined as not showing on the Badminton England database or not having active Badminton England membership.

Nominated players and eligible players

19. 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 & Medley (6 players) 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 dated at least three clear days before that team's first match, otherwise Rule 22 will apply.

20. 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.
21. In each event, the nominated players for a team are not eligible to play for a lower placed team in that same event.
22. If a club fails to notify the relevant Match Results Coordinator of the nominated players for any team in accordance with Rule 19 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.
23. 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.
24. 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. If a player does play for a second club in the same event, all games played for the second club by that player will be forfeited 21-0 to the opposition and match results updated to reflect the change.

Failure of a club to field a team

25. Failure of a club to field a team for a match on the agreed date shall result in that club conceding the match.
26. If two clubs mutually agree to change a fixture before the agreed date then the home team representative must notify the Match Results Coordinator that the match is postponed within 7 days of the original date. If no mutually convenient date for a postponed match can be agreed, the match will be awarded as a walkover to the team who did not request the postponement provided they email confirmation to the Match Results Coordinator including their players' names and copy in the opposition club by 30 April.
27. 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.
28. Any club cancelling within 48 hours of a match is liable for court costs incurred by the other team.
29. If a player is injured during a game, he or she may be replaced in order not to spoil the match, however that and any following rubber during the match using the substituted player will be awarded to the opposition.

Match result sheets

30. 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. A player`s surname must be entered on the score sheet as registered on Badminton England but short form first names ie Chris for Christopher will be accepted. Incorrect names will result in those games in which he or she played will be awarded to the opposition 21-0. For medley events and 4-person events, the score sheets, with names, must be exchanged simultaneously, to avoid a team basing its players order on the order of the opponents. Any team refusing to exchange score sheets in this way will result in that team conceding the match.
31. 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. Failure to submit results within this period will result in the awarding of the match to the away team.
32. Awarded/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 awarded or conceded, the captain of the team claiming the match must email confirmation to the Match Results Coordinator including their players` names in accordance with rule 18, reflecting the above scores and copy in the opposition club.

Playing times for matches

33. Weekday matches may not be scheduled to start before 19:00 hours.
34. Home teams must specify on their entry form 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 concede 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.

35. 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 at any time during the match, the home captain can notify the visiting captain that the remaining rubbers will 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 concede 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.

Trophies

36. 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 Fixtures Meeting, 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 not be refunded.

Player behaviour

37. 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

38. All matches must be played with feathered shuttlecocks.

Insurance

39. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure all members are appropriately registered with Badminton England to ensure insurance is in place. Clubs found to have invalid insurance may be required to suspend matches until the issue is resolved.

Adjudication of disputes

40. The Committee will adjudicate on any subject not specifically covered by these Rules and Regulations and will interpret these Rules and Regulations to solve disputes between clubs. All disputes must be submitted in writing to the League Chairman within 21 days of the date of the event.

41. If a club feels they have a compelling reason as to why they have failed to comply with the rules, they can appeal to the League Chairman. This must be submitted in writing to the League Chairman within 14 days of notification of failure to comply with

the rules by the League Co-Ordinator. The appeal must be accompanied by payment of £10 administration fee. The League Chairman will notify the committee members who will discuss and vote on the matter. The club will be notified of the committee's final decision within 28 days of receipt of the appeal. If the appeal is upheld the £10 administration fee will be refunded. If the appeal is not successful the £10 will be donated to charity.

42. The committee's decision is final.

Dissolution of the League

43. If, after consultation with the clubs, the committee decides the league is no longer viable, any remaining funds will be equally divided between the clubs.