



Caption

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1 NAME

The League shall be called the Southport and District Badminton League.

2 OBJECTS

The objects of the League shall be:-

- (a) to promote badminton generally in Southport and District.
- (b) to take any action to further the interests of badminton.
- (c) to ensure that affiliated members observe:
 - (i) the Laws of Badminton
 - (ii) the regulations of the World Federation and of Badminton England
 - (iii) the regulations of the Lancashire County Badminton Association

3 CONSTITUTION

The League shall be affiliated to the Lancashire B.A. Members eligible for affiliation to the League at the discretion of the League Management Executive shall be:-

- (a) clubs of which at least one of the objects is badminton and which have their headquarters and courts in Southport and district. The Executive shall determine the effective district boundary.
- (b) Schools and Youth Associations whose member clubs have an age limit of 21 years. Such members clubs need not affiliate themselves directly, but unless so affiliated shall not be entitled to the privileges of affiliation
- (c) Schools and Youth Clubs whose members have an age limit of 21 years.
- (d) Individuals, known as private members, who shall:
 - (i) pay an annual subscription
 - (ii) receive copies of all league circulars
 - (iii) be eligible to attend League Meetings
 - (iv) be eligible to vote and hold office
 - (v) be eligible to enter the Veterans Tournament only, subject to the rules of that tournament.
- (e) Honorary Life Members

Individual members of individual clubs and associations are by the fact itself indirect members of the League.

4 ADMINISTRATION

4A (i) The management of the League shall be vested in a Management Executive consisting of:-

(a) the officers of the League which shall be the President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

(b) six members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting to one of the following functions:-

League Match Chairman, Cups and Shields Chairman, Tournaments Chairman, League Registration Officer, Discipline and Courts Chairman and Junior League Officer.

(ii) Six members shall form a quorum at any Management Executive Meeting.

(iii) All retiring members of the League Management Executive shall be eligible for re-election.

(iv) Officers and members of the League Management Executive upon retirement shall be ex-officio of the League Management Executive for one year unless the League Management Executive shall otherwise decide.

(v) The Chairman shall have the casting vote at all meetings of the Executive.

4B (i) The League Management Executive shall have the power to transact the general business of the League.

(ii) The League Management Executive shall have the power to:-

(a) fill any casual vacancy arising

(b) elect at any time any number of Vice Presidents of the League, to hold office for such a period as the League Management Executive may determine.

(c) take any steps which they consider necessary for the purpose of enforcing any subscription or fines payable or imposed under any rules for the time being of the League

(d) admit individuals to League membership

(e) elect Honorary Life Members who may attend meetings of the League Management Executive

(f) appoint and delegate powers to Committees and also permit each Committee Chairman to appoint annually, co-opted members to their Committee from outside the League Management Executive with the approval of the League Management Executive.

(iii) The League Management Executive shall meet not less than three times annually. Meetings shall be called at the discretion of the Chairman or at the request in writing of at least six members of the League Management Executive.

5 THE LEAGUE

5A General

(i) The League for which all officers and League Management Executive members shall hold office, and during which the membership and registration of all clubs and players shall subsist shall be from the 1st day of May in one year to the 30th April the following year.

(ii) Applications for membership to the League for any year must be delivered to the general Secretary not later than 30th day of April preceding the year concerned. First applications must be accompanied by the prescribed entrance fee and details of the Clubs insurance cover which is compulsory.

(iii) an annual subscription shall be paid by each member club.

- (iv) where a Club has entered a number of teams in the League and then request permission to withdraw any particular team after the Division has been formed by the League Management Executive such requests may be submitted to the League Management Executive for arbitration. The decision of the League Management Executive based on all relevant facts shall be final. The team registration fee and an administration fee, as determined by the League Management Executive shall be paid.

5B Structure

- (i) The League shall consist of one or more divisions as the League Management Executive shall determine.
- (ii) The League Management Executive shall form divisions at its first meeting when it may reconstitute the divisions.

5C Competition

See Appendix 5C

6 GENERAL MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held in the month of April on a day and at a place and time appointed by the League Management Executive for the adoption of the report and final accounts, any alteration to rules, the election of Officers and members of the League Management Executive as required under Rule 4A, the election of the Honorary Auditor and such other business as may be transacted in a general meeting.

- (a) All items to be placed on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting, including nominations for the Officers and other members of the League Management Executive, shall be sent to the General Secretary so as to reach him/her not later than 28th February in the same year.
- (b) Not less than 14 days notice of any general meeting shall be given. Written notification to each affiliated club secretary, which shall include the agenda for the meeting shall be deemed to be sufficient notice of the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened upon a resolution of the League Management Executive or at the written request to the General Secretary of not less than 20 members being representative of at least 6 member clubs. Such requests shall state the purpose for which the meeting is required and no other business shall be transacted. The meeting shall be held within one month of such requisition being received by the General Secretary and the notice and agenda shall be circulated to all member club secretaries at least 14 days in advance.
- (d) Accidental omission to give the required notice to any Club Secretary shall not invalidate the proceedings at a general meeting.
- (e) All registered players of the League shall be entitled to attend and vote at any general meetings of the League.
- (f) Voting shall be by a show of hands unless any 6 persons present (who are entitled to vote) demand a ballot.

- (g) No members may vote by proxy.
- (h) No individual may have more than one vote, except the Chairman of a meeting who shall have a casting vote.
- (i) At all General Meetings 20 members entitled to vote shall form a quorum.
- (j) If there is no quorum for:-
 - (i) an Extraordinary General Meeting, the motion(s) on the agenda shall be deemed to have been defeated and the meeting concluded.
 - (ii) an Annual General Meeting, it shall be adjourned and another notification shall be circulated without a time restriction. At the adjourned meeting the members present shall form a quorum.

7 FINANCE

- (a) The Financial year of the League shall end on 31st March.
- (b) Annual subscriptions shall be paid by 1st October in each league year. The club subscriptions are:
 - (i) League entrance fee (New Clubs only)
 - (ii) Club annual subscriptions shall.
 - (iii) Team registration fee.
 - (iv) Junior team registration fee.

All rates will be advised by the League Treasurer to every Club Treasurer by 31st July of the current season.

- (c) No player may participate in any Cup, League, Tournament or Shield event until the players Badminton England fees have been remitted to Badminton England. Additionally, the players LCBA fees should have been remitted to the League Treasurer. All rates will be advised to every Club Treasurer 31st July of the current season.
- (d) All monies due to the League shall be deemed to be owing to the League Treasurer.
- (e) Any Club whose annual subscriptions, as in "b" above remain unpaid after 1st October each year shall be liable to such a penalty as the League Management Executive may decide.
- (f) The League accounts shall be audited within two months of the end of the financial year and shall be available for inspection upon request by any registered league member.
- (g) A copy of the final accounts for the year just ended shall be produced at the Annual General Meeting and shall be suitably classed if not audited.

8 APPEALS

- (a) Any club or player shall have the right to appeal to the League Management Executive on any matter. An appeal must be submitted to the League Secretary, who shall acknowledge receipt and liaise with the club/player regarding the date and venue of the appeal being heard. Any such appeal shall be dealt with by an appeals committee and their decision shall be final.
- (b) When an appeal is received, an appeals committee, with a minimum of 3 members, will be made up from Officers/Members of the League Management Executive, or should

circumstances demand, co-opted member(s) of Committees, as necessary, of the League Management Executive in accordance with the requirements of C below. The Chair of the appeals committee must always be an Officer/Member of the League Management Executive.

- (c) No member of an appeals committee established in B above can consider an appeal if they have (i) been involved to any degree in the original decision taken by the League Management Executive or by one of its committees which has prompted the appeal or (ii) has any connection with the club(s) or player(s) who has made the appeal.

9 RULES

Any matters not provided for by these rules shall be dealt with by the League Management Executive who shall be the sole authority for the interpretation thereof, provided that any decision given by a general meeting shall be binding. Any addition to, or interpretation of these rules made by League Management Executive shall only be operative until the Annual General Meeting of the League when they shall be reported to such meeting for confirmation or otherwise. No amendment or alteration of these rules shall be made except at a General Meeting.

Appendix (RULE 5c-COMPETITION)

1 Players Eligibility

1.1 All players participating in League competitions must be registered with the League and be members of League clubs. For registrations to be valid, each Club Secretary shall send on the form provided, a list of club players, the team to which each player has been assigned, to the League Registration Officer, before the first match of the season. Also, the player's Badminton England fee has to have been paid to Badminton England. Where a player has had their Badminton England fee paid through another Club, the player must show as having an active Badminton England membership for the Club within the Southport and District Badminton League for which they are being registered for the registration to be effective. All players LCBA fees must also have been remitted to the League Treasurer. The League Registration Officer will confirm to clubs when players' registrations are complete, and the player(s) is eligible to play in League Competitions. For a player that a club wishes to register with the League as described above, but who will not be participating in any League competitions, then when their name is forwarded to the League Registration Officer, instead of assigning them a team the player(s) should be designated as NPL (non-playing league). If a club subsequently wishes for a NPL player to play in one of its teams then permission must be sought, together with the team to which they are proposed to be assigned, and approval given by the League Registration Officer before the player plays in a League competition.

1.1(b) No player shall be eligible to play in league weeks 15; 16; 17 and 18 unless they have played in a minimum of 4 league matches before league week 15. Participation in Cups, Shields or Watkinson Trophy matches do NOT count towards the minimum number.

1.2 Additional players may be registered on individual registration forms, which have to include the team to which they have been assigned or NPL as appropriate and must be sent to the League Registration Officer before participating in any match or tournament of any kind as well as complying with the requirements of 1.1. No player may be registered after 31 December in the

current season, unless an NPL, except by permission of the Executive. Each year information about new fees will be sent to each Club.

1.3 Any player who participates in a League competition and whose registration with the League has not been effected before they play (1.1 and 1.2 refer) is not authorised to play in League competitions. If a team plays such an unregistered player or a NPL player without permission, that team shall forfeit the match. However, if an unregistered player plays in a match between two teams from the same Club then that match shall be declared null and void. No points shall be awarded to either team in such circumstances.

1.4 No player is eligible to play in a lower ranked team to the one they are assigned as required by 1.1 and 1.2 Any player who plays in a lower ranked team to the one they are assigned (1.1 and 1.2 refer) will be regarded as ineligible. Where a team plays such an ineligible player then rule 4.10 will apply. A player will not be regarded as ineligible if a subsequent change has been made to the player's assigned team until it has been notified to, approved and confirmed by the League Registration Officer.

1.5 Any player having been registered for one Club and wishing to play in League matches for another Club during the same season may apply to the League Management Executive for a transfer of their registration to the last-mentioned Club. A reassignment form to transfer, which must also state the team to which the player will be assigned, must be duly completed and deposited with the League Registration Officer not less than 7 days before the first match in which the player intends to play for his/her Club. No player may be transferred in the current season except by permission of the League Registration Officer. The player shall not play for their new Club until he/she has received notification from the League Registration Officer that the transfer of their registration has been completed.

1.6 No Club shall have the right to object to the registration of any player with another Club except where the player is not clear on the books of the objecting club in respect of monies outstanding. Any Club wishing to object under this rule must lodge such an objection with the League Secretary, in writing, without undue delay, giving full particulars. The suspension by the Executive of any registration under this rule shall be operative only until the defaulting player shall have discharged his/her obligations to the objecting Club.

2 Higher Team Play Eligibility

2.1 Where a Club has more than one team, whether in the same division or different divisions, a player from a lower ranked team can play in a higher ranked team provided that player is of an equal or lower standard than those players in the higher team.

2.2 When a player has played up in the same higher team on 6 occasions, they will be re-assigned to that higher team for the remainder of the season and be ineligible to play for their originally assigned lower team and any other higher ranked team.

2.3 When a player has played up 6 times for higher ranked teams from their originally assigned lower team, then they are only eligible to play for their originally assigned lower team. They will not be eligible to play for any higher ranked team for the remainder of the season. However, should these 6 occasions be to the same higher ranked team then 2.2 will apply.

2.4 Where 2.2 or 2.3 applies to any player, then should that player play up to any higher ranked team, then he/she is deemed to be an ineligible player and is dealt with as in rule 4.10.

2.5 When a player from a lower ranked team plays in a higher ranked team as per 2.1, but the player is considered by the Executive not to be of an equal or lower standard than those players in the higher team, then that player will be regarded as ineligible. Where a team plays such an ineligible player then rule 4.10 will apply.

3 Pre-match

3.1 All matches shall be played under the Laws of Badminton with each court having a minimum playing standard as decided by the Executive. Unless prior permission to re-arrange a match has been obtained from the League Match Chairman, see 3.4, matches shall be played in the particular week appointed by the Executive.

3.2 The home Club shall have sole responsibility for deciding which night during the appointed week the match shall be played and what time play shall commence, giving at least 28 days' notice to the visiting Club. Once a match(es) has been confirmed with the away Club, including any re-arranged match, the date(s) and venue(s) must be input on tournament software by the home club. It will be the duty of both Clubs to ensure that its players are available at the agreed time. When a match has not been played on the date advised by the Home club, unless 3.4 applies then the offending Club(s) could have a financial penalty not exceeding £ 50 and/or a deduction of 3 points imposed by the Executive. In addition, if the offending Club's team is the away team, that Club will have to reimburse to the Home club the costs incurred for the venue hire.

3.3 All matches shall commence not later than 7pm. In the event of a hall not being available to play at 7pm, prior approval for the use of the hall for matches must be obtained from the League Management Executive.

3.4 Permission to re-arrange a match, which must be obtained by the Match Secretary from the League Match Chairman, will only apply in the following circumstances:

- (a) The home Club's hall is not available in the week the League fixture is due to be played; or
- (b) A Cup, Shield or Trophy match has to be played in the same week as the League fixture by the home or away team and both matches cannot be played; or
- (c) A Club's lowest team is unable to field 8 players.

For re-arranged fixtures under (a), (b) or (c), permission must be sought as soon as possible. After 30 September in the current season not more than 2 postponements per team per season may be requested under (c) above. No postponement will be permitted within 48 hours of the start of the match where (c) applies. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the Executive imposing a penalty not to exceed £50 and/or 3 points being deducted from either or both teams. For all re-arranged fixtures due to (c) where the away team seeks such a postponement, a payment of £40 to defray such expenses will be made by the away team to the home Club.

3.5 Matches can only be re-arranged (see 3.4) by match secretaries and must be i) played as soon as possible and ii) within 56 days of the original match date or by the last league week of the season (normally L 18), whichever is the earlier. Any request to play a re-arranged match beyond

L18 must be authorised beforehand by the League Match Chairman. The home match secretary shall, within 7 days of the date the original match was due to be played, offer 2 dates to the away match secretary for the re-arranged match to take place. One of these dates shall be agreed for the fixture to be played UNLESS the away team has matches ALREADY arranged for both dates offered. The home team will then offer a 3rd date in such circumstances. All of the dates offered shall provide 14 days' notice unless otherwise mutually agreed. The date agreed must be notified immediately by the home match secretary to the League Match Chairman. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a penalty not exceeding £20 being imposed by the Executive on either or both teams.

3.6 In the event that no agreement is reached by Clubs as per 3.5 above, then the League Match Chairman will direct when and where the re-arranged match shall be played. Both Clubs will share the hire cost of the venue.

4 Match

4.1 Each match shall consist of four mixed doubles, two men's doubles and two women's doubles, each event shall consist of the best of three games to 21 points (extended games if required) using rally points scoring. No player may play in more than one like event nor in more than one match in any one night.

4.2 Captains must complete their teams on the match score sheet before the start of the match. Pairs must be played in order of strength otherwise, at the discretion of the Executive, events or the match may be forfeited.

4.3 Where a Club has two or more teams in the same division, it is expected that in matches between them the higher ranked team will prevail. However, the League Executive recognise that this will not always be the case and when such an eventuality occurs, will judge the circumstances accordingly.

4.4 The actual time of starting the match must be marked accurately on the score sheet. In the event of any delay arising in the commencement of any match, or any occurrence resulting in the match not being completed, the reasons therefore shall be entered on the back of the score sheet and signed by both captains.

4.5 Feather shuttlecocks, of a standard to be determined by the Executive, shall be used in League matches and competitions.

4.6 In all events organised by the League, coloured clothing may be worn. In order to ensure attractive presentation of badminton, all clothing should be acceptable badminton sports clothing and, wherever possible, doubles partners are asked to try and wear the same colours. Track suits shall not be worn during match play except by agreement of both captains.

4.7 The order of play in all events shall be in accordance with the requirements of the home captain.

4.8 To be eligible to play in a particular match a player must be present and ready to play by 8.15pm. This may be extended to 8.30pm by mutual agreement on or before the date the match is played. Prior to 8.15pm (extended to 8.30pm by mutual agreement) a team can substitute a

player already entered on the match score sheet and who has not yet played in that match provided the substitute is of equal or lesser standard than the player originally named.

4.9 Where a player is not present by 8.15pm (extended to 8.30pm by mutual agreement) and a substitute has not been used, as per rule 4.8, then the opposing team captain shall regard all the games in which the absent player would have played as being forfeited. The captain must inform the opposing captain immediately that he/she regards the games of the absent player as forfeited, and the games involved must be entered on the match score sheet as 21.0 and identified by W/O (Walkover).

4.10 Where a team plays an ineligible player, that player must play at 4th mixed doubles and 2nd men's/women's doubles and the opposing captain notified. This rule does not apply to an unregistered player who is dealt with under 1.3. If a team plays an ineligible player other than as stated, then that team shall forfeit the match. In a match between two teams from the same Club where an ineligible player has played except at 4th mixed doubles and 2nd men's/ women's then the match shall be declared null and void. No points will be awarded to either team in such circumstances.

4.11 In the event of a player being incapacitated after play in a match has begun so that he or she cannot continue playing, a captain shall be entitled to include a substitute of an equal or lesser standard in any subsequent event in which the incapacitated player should have taken part provided that the injury or other incapacity was caused entirely after play in the match had begun and was not solely due to tiredness or the worsening of an existing ailment.

4.12 comments/complaints entered on the reverse of Home team's match score sheet must be acknowledged by way of signature by a representative from both teams, prior its submission by the Home team to the League Match Chairman who must receive it either electronically or by hard copy within 72 working hours of the match being played.

4.13 In the event of a match not being played it shall NOT be conceded without permission being sought and obtained from the League Match Committee.

5 Post-match

5.1 The home team shall be responsible for ensuring that the details from the completed score sheet are entered and uploaded onto the League's tournament software no later than 24 hours after the match has been completed. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a penalty not exceeding £20 being imposed by the Executive.

5.2 The away team shall be responsible for accessing the tournament software to check the result of their match submitted by the home team and must inform the League Match Chairman within 48 hours if they dispute the result submitted by the home team.

5.3 In the event of any occurrence arising under 4.4, the Executive may require both captains to appear before the League Match Committee for the purpose of explanation and may impose on the Club found to be at fault such fine or penalty as they may in their absolute discretion deem adequate.

6 Divisional Champions, Promotion and Relegation

6.1 Promotion and relegation shall be decided by the Executive at its first meeting.

6.2 The team securing most points in each division shall be the champion team of that division and shall be entitled to the custody of the championship trophy of that division until the succeeding Annual General Meeting.

6.3 Points shall be awarded as follows:

- 3 points for a win on events

- 1 point for a tie on events

6.4 Where two teams secure the same number of points, the number of events won shall be the deciding factor. Where the teams are still equal, then the greatest difference between games won and games lost shall be the deciding factor. Where there is still a tie, then the difference between aces won and aces lost shall be the deciding factor. Should the teams still remain equal then the deciding factor based on the above criteria will apply to the combined results of the 2 matches played by the 2 teams against each other during the season.

6.5 At least one team from the 2nd and lower divisions shall be promoted.