

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:
 - the Laws of Badminton
 - the regulations of the World Federation and of Badminton England
 - 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) club 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) Honorary Life Members
- (c) All members of the League Management Executive

4 ADMINISTRATION

- (a) The management of the League shall be vested in a Management Executive consisting of the officers of the League who shall be the President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, League Match Chairman, Cups and Shields Chairman, Tournament Chairman, Tournaments Chairman, League Registration Officer, Discipline and Courts Chairman and Junior Officer.
- (b) Six members shall form a quorum at any Management Executive Meeting.
- (c) All retiring members of the League Management Executive shall be eligible for re-election.
- (d) 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.
- (e) The Chairman shall have the casting vote at all meetings of the Executive.
- (f) The League Management 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.
- (g) The League Management Executive shall have the power to :-
 - (i) Transact the general business of the League.
 - (ii) Fill any casual vacancy arising

- (iii) 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.
- (iv) 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.
- (v) Admit individuals to League membership.
- (vi) Elect Honorary Life Members who may attend meetings of the League Management Executive.
- (vii) 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.

5 THE LEAGUE

5.1 General

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) An annual subscription shall be paid by each member club.
- (d) Where a club has entered a number of teams in the League and then request permission to withdraw any particular team after the divisions have been formed by may be submitted to the League Management 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.
- (e) The League shall consist of one or more divisions as the League Management Executive shall determine.
- (f) The League Management Executive shall form divisions at its first meeting when it may reconstitute the divisions.

5.2 Eligibility For League Competitions

- (a) All players participating in League Competitions must be registered with the League and be members of the club to whom they are registered. For registrations to be valid, each club secretary shall send on the form provided, a list of club players and the team to which they have been assigned or if not assigned to a team, be recorded as NPL (non playing league), before the first match of the season. In addition, all players must have Badminton England Membership which must show as active for their club within the league.
- (b) If a club wishes to re-assign a player to a different team than they were originally registered to, they must complete a re-assignment form which should be sent to the League Registration Officer for approval. This also applies to players originally registered as NPL.

- (c) Additional players may be registered during the course of the season by completing a Late Registration Form which should be sent to the League Registration Officer for approval.
- (d) No player may be registered after 31st December except by permission of the League Registration Officer in consultation with the League Match Chairman.
- (e) Any player who plays in a lower ranked team than the one to which they are assigned is deemed to be ineligible. A player will not be regarded as ineligible if a subsequent change has been made to the players assigned team.
- (f) Any player having been registered for one club and wishing to play matches for another club during the same season may apply, by the new club completing a reassignment form which should be sent to the League Registration Officer. The player shall not play for the new club until approval is given by the League Registration Officer.
- (g) 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 League Management Executive under this rule shall be operative only until the defaulting player shall have discharged his/her obligations to the objecting club.

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. Business to be conducted shall be as follows:-

- To confirm the minutes of the previous AGM
 - To receive and adopt the report of the League Management Executive
 - To receive and adopt the final accounts as produced by the League Treasurer
 - To elect the League Management Executive
 - To approve the nomination of the Honorary Auditor
 - To vote on any rule changes
 - To discuss any other business as maybe deemed appropriate
- (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. All rates will be advised by the League Treasurer to every Club Treasurer by 31st July of the current season. The club subscriptions are: -
 - League entrance fees (New Clubs only)
 - Club annual subscriptions
 - Team registration fee
 - Junior team registration rates
- (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 remains 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 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 above 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

League Match Rules

1 Pre Match

- (a) All matches shall be played under the Laws of Badminton with each court having a minimum playing standard as decided by the League Management Executive.
- (b) All matches shall be played in the scheduled week unless prior permission to re-arrange a match has been obtained from the League Match Chairman.
- (c) The home club shall have sole responsibility for deciding which night during the scheduled week the match shall be played and what time play shall commence giving at least 28 days notice to the visiting club (14 days for re-arranged matches unless mutually agreed otherwise). Once a match or rearranged match has been confirmed with the away club, the date(s), time(s) and venue(s) must be input on Tournament Software by the home club.
- (d) 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.
- (e) No match shall be conceded without approval of the League Match Chairman.
- (f) If a club seeks a postponement, permission must be obtained by the Match Secretary from the League Match Chairman giving a minimum of 48 hours notice and will only be permitted in the following circumstances:-
 - (i) The home clubs venue is not available for the scheduled fixture

- (ii) A Cup, Shield or Watkinson match has to be played in the same week by either team and both matches cannot be played
- (iii) A club's lowest team is unable to field 8 players. Where the away team seeks a postponement in this circumstance, a payment of £40 to defray expenses incurred will be made by the away club to the home club. After 30th September, not more than 2 postponements may be requested for a club's lowest team.

Failure to comply with rule 1(f) will result in the League Management Executive imposing a penalty not to exceed £50 and/or 8 points deduction.

- (g) The home Match Secretary shall within 7 days of the original match date offer 2 dates to the away Match Secretary for the re-arranged matches must to take place, one of which shall be agreed unless the away team already has matches arranged for both dates in which case a 3rd date will be offered. 14 days notice must be given unless mutually agreed less. The League Match Chairman must be advised of the new date and it must also be entered on Tournament Software.
- (h) Re-arranged matches must be played as soon as possible and within 56 days of the original match date or by the last league week (normally L18), whichever is sooner. Any request to play a match beyond League Week 18 must be authorised by the League Match Chairman.
- (i) In the event that no agreement can be reached on a date for a re-arranged match, the League Match Chairman shall have the authority to direct when and where the match is to be played and also direct on how the costs are to be met.

2 Higher Team Play Eligibility

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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 2b will apply.
- (d) Where 2a or 2b 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 under rule 3(j)
- (e) When a player from a lower ranked team plays in a higher ranked team as per 2a but the player is considered by the League Management Executive not to be of an equal or lower standard, then that player will be regarded as ineligible. Where a team plays such an ineligible player, then rule 3(j) will apply.

3 Match

- (a) 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.

- (b) 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.
- (c) 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.
- (d) 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 Tournament Software.
- (e) Feather shuttlecocks, of a standard to be determined by the Executive, shall be used in League matches.
- (f) 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.
- (g) The order of play in all events shall be in accordance with the requirements of the home captain.
- (h) 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.
- (i) 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 3i, 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).
- (j) Where a team plays an ineligible player, that player must play at 4th mixed doubles and 2nd levels doubles and the opposing captain notified. This does not apply to unregistered players which is dealt with in rule 3k. 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 doesn't play as stated, the match shall be declared null and void. No points will be awarded to either team in such circumstances.
- (k) A team is not permitted to play any player who has not been registered with the league. If a team plays such an unregistered player that team shall forfeit the match. However, should this be the case 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.
- (l) In the event of a player being incapacitated after play in a match had 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 after play in the match had begun and was not solely due to tiredness or the worsening of an existing ailment.

4 Post Match

- (a) 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.
- (b) The away team shall be responsible for accessing 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.
- (c) In the event of an in-completed match as in 3(d)), the League Match Committee may require both captains to provide an explanation and any subsequent action may be taken as deemed necessary

5 Divisional Champions, Promotion and Relegation

- (a) Promotion and relegation shall be decided by the League Management Executive at its first meeting
- (b) The team securing the 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.
- (c) Points shall be awarded on the basis of 1 point per event won.
- (d) Where two teams secure the same number of points, then the greatest difference between games won and games lost shall be the deciding factor. When there is still a tie, then the difference between points won in games and points lost in games 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 two matches played by the two teams against each other.
- (e) At least one team from the 2nd and lower divisions shall be promoted.