

# **Bristol Badminton League**

## **RULES OF THE COMPETITION**

### **GENERAL RULES**

#### **SOME NOTES FOR CLUB GUIDANCE ON LEAGUE PLAY**

# Bristol Badminton League

## RULES OF THE COMPETITION

1. The annual competition shall consist of mixed, ladies and mens sections which shall be competed for in divisions of not more than six clubs, each playing the remainder at home and away.

2. (a) The arrangement of divisions in all sections shall be as follows:

Division	1
Division	2
Division	3
Division	4A and 4B which shall be of equal standing.
Division	5A and 5B ditto
Division	6A and 6B ditto
Division	7A and 7B ditto
	etc

to be determined by the number of teams in each section each season.

- (b) Where only 5 divisions are present in a section, the arrangement shall be as follows:

Division 1  
Division 2  
Division 3  
Division 4  
Division 5

Two teams will be promoted and two demoted each year from each division, with the exception of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> divisions, where promotion and relegation respectively, are not possible.

3. The divisions shall be filled progressively starting with Division 1 and then the other divisions in number and letter order. Where the number of clubs is not divisible by six, the composition of the lowest numbered division/s shall be decided by the Annual General Meeting. New teams or teams re-entering the competition shall be placed in the lowest numbered divisions in letter order according to vacancy.

In the event of two teams from the same club being placed in the same division (except 1,2, and 3) the Annual General Meeting may alter the composition and interchange one team with another from a parallel division. No club may have three teams in one division.

4. (a) A club may enter a first, second and third team with the conditions that
  1. two first team matches must be played before any second team match, and two second team matches before any third team match and
  2. when a club has two teams in the same division, the matches against each other must be played by the end of December.

(b) A club may enter a fourth team in any section of the league with the condition that a pool of 8 players i.e. 4 ladies & 4 men / 8 ladies / 8 men in the relevant sections are named to represent the 1st and 2nd teams. These will then be excluded from playing in either the 3rd or 4th teams. The nomination of players may be extended to clubs entering three teams if they so wish, thus avoiding the condition No 1. in Rule 4a.

## Bristol Badminton League

- (c) A club may enter a fifth team in any section of the League with the condition that a pool of twelve players i.e. 6 ladies & 6 men / 12 ladies / 12 men in the relevant sections are named to represent the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams. These will then be excluded from playing in either the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> teams.
5. Any player playing for the first team more than once shall not be eligible for the second team, any player playing for the first or second teams more than once shall not be eligible for the third team and any player playing for the first, second or third teams more than once shall not be eligible for the fourth team, any player playing for the first, second, third or fourth teams more than once shall not be eligible for the fifth team except by special permission of the League Committee.
6. (a) The team for each League Match shall be composed of:
1. for the Mixed Section - 2 men and 2 ladies.
  2. for the Ladies' Section - 4 ladies.
  3. for the Mens' Section - 4 men.
- who shall be bona fide members of the club for at least fourteen days before participation in a League match.
- (b) The matches shall consist of:
1. for the Mixed Section - four mixed doubles, one men's and one ladies' doubles.  
Each pair shall play each appropriate pair of the opposing team ie. Six set in all.
  2. for the Ladies' and Mens' Sections – six doubles to be played as follows :-  
1 & 2 v A & B, 3 & 4 v C & D, then 1 & 2 v C & D, 3 & 4 v A & B. The pairings then swap partners and 1 & 3 v A & C, 2 & 4 v B & D.
- All sets in each Section shall be the best of three games.
7. (a) In all sections of the League one point will be awarded for each set won, i.e. a total of 6 points will be available for each match.
- (b) The order of precedence in the divisions shall be decided by the number of points won. If two or more clubs in any division shall score an equal number of points, the order of precedence shall be determined by the ratio of sets won to sets lost. Should the ratio of sets won to sets lost be equal, the ratio of games won to games lost shall decide, and should the ratio of games won to games lost be equal, then the ratio of aces for to aces against shall decide.
8. Matches shall be umpired unless agreed otherwise by both clubs contesting.
9. Feathered shuttles shall be used for matches unless the use of plastic/nylon shuttles is agreed by both clubs contesting.
10. The full results of all matches, together with the names and affiliation numbers of the players shall be entered on the Results Card provided, signed by both umpires or club representatives, and forwarded by the home club to the Fixture officer within three days of the conclusion of the match. In the event of a match being cancelled, the same rule to apply.
11. (a) At the conclusion of the Annual Competition the bottom two clubs of Division 1 shall be relegated to Division 2. The winner and runner-up of Division 2 shall be promoted to Division 1. The bottom two clubs from Division 2 shall be relegated to Division 3.

## **Bristol Badminton League**

(b) The winner and runner-up of Division 3 shall be promoted to Division 2. The bottom club of Division 3 shall be relegated to Division 4a and the next to bottom to Div. 4b.

(c) The winners of Divisions 4a and 4b shall be promoted to Division 3. The bottom clubs from Divisions 4a and 4b shall be relegated directly to Divisions 5a and 5b and the next to bottom shall be relegated by crossing over to Divisions 5b and 5a

(d) The winners of Divisions 5a and 5b shall be promoted directly to Divisions 4a and 4b and the runners-up of Divisions 5a and 5b shall be promoted across to Divisions 4b and 4a.

(e) Promotion and relegation from Divisions 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 etc. shall be decided in accordance with Rule 11(d) depending on the composition decided by the Annual General Meeting. (see Rule 3)

(f) In the event of a Club's 3rd team finishing in first or second place in the division below that which would contain their 1st and 2nd teams, the team placed third shall play the team finishing in fifth place in the higher division and if successful will be promoted, the team due for relegation in the higher division having the choice of court, and the cost of the shuttles to be shared equally. (see rule 3)

In the event of a Club's 1st (and 2nd) team/s being admitted into a division in which that Club's 2nd (and 3rd) team/s would be, that 3rd team would automatically be regarded as one of the teams to be relegated from the division.

In the event of a Club's 3rd ,4th or 5th teams finishing in such a position that would result in more than two teams from the same club being in the same division the same rules will apply.

(g) In the event of a Club resigning from the League, the vacancy created shall be filled by the team with the highest number of points of the relegated teams of the Division.

(h) If a Club resigns during the season the results of all matches of the Club shall be cancelled and only the bottom team of the Division/s concerned will be relegated.

12. No player shall play in the Mixed, Ladies' or Mens' section for more than one Club during the same season unless sanction has been obtained from the League Committee.
13. In the event of a Club wishing to drop a team from any section of the League at the start of the season, this must be the lowest placed team. Any other team may be dropped at the discretion of the League Committee.
14. After submission of the Clubs' fixture lists at the AGM. postponement of a fixture must receive the prior approval of the League Committee. Such approval will normally be granted only on:-
  1. the loss of venue, or
  2. Severe weather conditions

Inability to field a team will not be sufficient grounds to grant a postponement.

However, a Club may plead exceptional circumstances for not being able to fulfil a fixture and a postponement may be granted, but only with the additional approval of the opposing Club.

If a postponement is not granted, the opponents of the team failing to fulfil the fixture shall be awarded full points and the maximum score.

## **Bristol Badminton League**

15. Matches must not be scheduled to commence earlier than 6.30pm or later than 8.30pm on weekdays. Saturday and Sunday matches must not be scheduled to commence earlier than 8.30am or later than 8.30pm.
16. If, as a result of either the Home or Away team not turning up at the time stated in the League Handbook some games are not able to be completed within the available time, at the discretion of the League Committee the offending team may have to concede all unplayed or unfinished games.
17. All League matches shall be concluded on or before March 31st.

## **Bristol Badminton League**

### **GENERAL RULES**

1. The "Bristol Badminton League" hereinafter referred to as "the League" shall be a District Association affiliated to Badminton England and Avon Badminton Association.
2. The purpose of the League shall be to provide clubs with a competition which shall be competed for annually in accordance with the rules of the competition and Badminton England. The League may also provide other competitions and functions which shall be agreed by a General Meeting of clubs.
3. Membership of the League shall be open to clubs whose members are affiliated to the Avon Badminton Association and Badminton England and whose courts are within a radius of twelve miles of Bristol Bridge, subject to the Committee's approval.
4. An annual registration fee (as agreed at the AGM) shall be payable for each team entered in the competition on or before the Annual General Meeting of the year in which the competition commences.
5. The Annual General Meeting shall elect a President and Vice-Presidents, not exceeding three in number, who shall be elected annually and shall be eligible for re-election on retirement.
6. The management of the League shall be entrusted to a Committee, called the League Committee, and this shall consist of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Fixture Officer. The Committee shall nominate one of their members or a co-opted member to serve as representative on the Council of the Avon Badminton Association.
7. The League Committee shall have power to co-opt additional members or form Sub-committees at their discretion, and at a meeting of the Committee three shall form a quorum.
8. The League Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of clubs and shall be eligible for re-election.
9. Each club shall be entitled to not more than two representatives with power to vote at an Annual General Meeting or any General Meeting, and their names shall be recorded on a list of Club Representatives present at the meeting. To be included on the list of Club Representatives, a club must have had paid-up membership for the year prior to the meeting and without this qualification such club shall not be entitled to nominate or vote.
10. No alteration to the General Rules or the Rules of the Competition shall be adopted unless two thirds of the representatives on the List of Representatives of an Annual General Meeting or General Meeting shall be in favour of such an alteration.
11. Proposals for alterations of, or amendment to, the General Rules or Rules of the Competition must be submitted in writing to the Committee not later than 31st July, or at least one month before the date of a General Meeting. Notices of such proposals shall be circulated to clubs not less than two weeks before the date of the meeting. Accidental omission to give such notice to any club shall not invalidate the proceedings of such meeting.
12. Application for membership or resignation shall be made in writing to the Secretary on or before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

## **Bristol Badminton League**

13. Any club which is not represented at the Annual General Meeting shall be debarred from participation in the Competition. At the discretion of the League Committee, the Annual General Meeting may be asked to vote on membership of a club not represented at the meeting and there must be an unanimous vote in favour of acceptance.
14. Any dispute arising between clubs concerning competitions or functions organised by the League shall be referred to the sole arbitration of the League Committee whose decision shall be legal and binding.
15. The League Committee shall have power to discipline clubs or individual members of clubs. The disciplinary action to be taken shall be notified in writing to all the club secretaries and the member or members concerned, and there shall be a right of appeal in writing if exercised within two weeks of the notification. Each Annual General Meeting shall appoint a Committee of Appeal consisting of five members other than members of the League committee and drawn from five clubs affiliated to the League. Should any club in dispute have a member on the Appeals Committee such member shall not be eligible to vote whilst such dispute or protest is being considered. Any party wishing to appeal to the Appeals Committee shall pay £20.00 in advance of appeal, this sum to be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

The Appeals Committee has the right to vary the decision of the League Committee and its decision shall be final.

At a meeting of the Appeals Committee three members shall form a quorum.

## Bristol Badminton League

### SOME NOTES FOR CLUB GUIDANCE ON LEAGUE PLAY

1. Order of play - Each match consists, in the Mixed Section, of four mixed doubles, one men's doubles and one ladies' doubles, and in the ladies and mens sections, of six doubles, and these events may be played in any order. Visiting teams should be given the courtesy of choosing the order in which the events should be played, but this should be agreed by both teams before starting the match, or after the mixed doubles if these are played first.
- 1b Rally point scoring system to be used in all games as described in the Badminton England Rules.
2. Local Byelaws - Local byelaws applicable to the hall in which the match is being played should be explained to the visiting team e.g. roof is a fault, beams are a let, etc., before the match starts.
3. Posts and Nets - The home team should make every effort to see that the posts and net are positioned in accordance with Rules 2 and 3 of the Laws of Badminton. Pay particular attention to the position of the posts, or if the net is slung from the walls, provide a white tape hanging where the post would have been.
4. Court lighting - If special lighting is not provided make the best of what is available. If there is a choice the lighting should be concentrated over the net without leaving the corners of the court in gloom. Glare from overhead lights can be particularly distracting and shades on lights on the sidelines may help reduce the glare. Inadequate lighting is just as bad as glare, higher wattage bulbs maybe all that is needed.
5. Court Marking- In small one-court halls, the court markings have sometimes been adapted to make the best use of the space available. This results in a court which may not be in accordance with Rule 1 of the Laws of Badminton. While such deviations may not be significant to local club play they may be a disadvantage to visiting teams. As with local byelaws, any deviation from standard should be brought to the attention of the visiting team before the match starts. clubs entering the League for the first time are advised to consult the League Committee if there is any doubt about the courts and hall facilities.
6. Shuttles - The Rules of the Competition allow feather or nylon/plastic shuttles and it is the responsibility of the home club to provide shuttles of the correct speed. Visiting teams should be given the opportunity of testing the shuttles for speed and remember that they have the option of refusing to use nylon/plastic shuttles. It is sometimes helpful if more than one speed of shuttle is available to suit different atmospheric conditions and most complaints in the past have been of shuttles which were too slow.
7. Umpiring - Umpires may be either non-playing members from each of the clubs competing, or players from each of the teams and this should be agreed before the start of the match. If matches are not umpired then the players must accept the responsibility of making decisions on line shots etc. which are seen to be fair by both sides. Without an umpire any line decisions may be questioned by either side and a "let" should be played without argument.

At the end of the match the score card provided by the home team must be signed by both team captains/umpires and returned to the Fixture Officer within 3 days of the conclusion of the match. (Rule 10 of Rules of the Competition)