

ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT BADMINTON LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

General

1. The league shall be called the Aberdeen & District Badminton League.
2. All those participating in events and activities organised by the Aberdeen & District Badminton League (including, but not limited to, Clubs, Players, Volunteers, Committee Members, Coaches, Parents, Officials, etc.) shall agree to be bound by the principles and penalties as laid out within the Aberdeen & District Badminton League Code of Conduct.
3. The management of the League shall be vested in a committee to be elected by the duly appointed club representatives. The committee shall consist of the following:
 - Chairman
 - Hon. Secretary/ Treasurer
 - Website/ Scorecard Secretary
 - Tournament Secretary/ Referee
 - Fixtures Secretary
 - a number of other committee members

A minimum of 6 members in all is required and 4 members of the committee to form a quorum. The committee shall have power to form sub-committees as they consider necessary. Honorary officials will be appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of club representatives, consisting of a quorum (51% or more) of League Club representatives, to be called annually by the Hon. Sec. of the League at the end of each season, of which appropriate notice will be given. Every club in the league must have one representative on the league committee. If a club does not put forward a named person to be on the league committee, the Club Secretary will fill this role. A 2nd representative from a club may be on the league committee provided at least one of those representatives fulfils a named position listed above. If a league committee member is unable to attend a league committee meeting, they can nominate a substitute from their club to represent them at said meeting.

4. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be convened at such a time as the committee shall determine or on the requisition in writing to the Hon. Secretary by not less than one third of the clubs who are members of the League. An EGM shall have a quorum of not less than one quarter of the membership of the League.
5. The League shall be divided into sections according to the number of teams joining, namely ladies doubles, men's doubles and mixed doubles. Each section shall be divided into divisions as necessary at the discretion of the committee.
6. a.) The team which at the end of the season has the highest points total shall be declared the winner of the division. Should there be a tie in points, the number of rubbers shall count, and should there be a tie in rubbers won, a majority of games shall count, should there be a tie in games, then individual game play points shall count. In the normal course of events the following applies:
 - Promotion and relegation of clubs shall be decided by match play as arranged by the League committee. The winning team shall move up to the division above, while the club with the least points shall be relegated to the division below except in circumstances such as Rule 6b.
 - In the mixed doubles and men's doubles sections of the League, 2nd placed in the lower division and 2nd bottom placed in the higher division will compete in a play-off to determine promotion and relegation except in circumstances such as Rule 6b.
- b.) No club shall be permitted to have more than two teams in any division other than the lowest;
 - Where, under the normal promotion arrangements, a club would have more than two teams in a division (other than the lowest) any promotion to such division shall be limited to sufficient teams for the club to have two teams in that division.
 - If, under the normal promotion provisions, any further team of that club should be promoted to the same division, such team shall not be promoted and the next highest team in the division shall be promoted instead.

- Where, as a result of relegation of one or more of its teams, a club would have more than two teams in a division other than the lowest in any league, the lowest placed of its teams that would otherwise remain in that division, will be relegated to a still lower division.

c.) Prior to the commencement of the following season, the committee reserve the right to balance the divisions within a section as required. (This may have an impact on Rule 6a.)

Club Eligibility

7. Before being eligible to join the League competition, clubs must be members of Badminton Scotland.
8. Clubs desirous of entering the League shall make application to the Hon. Sec. not later than 30th April preceding the season they wish to participate in. Any clubs wishing to resign from the League must give notice in writing to the Hon. Sec. not later than 30th April preceding the season they no longer wish to participate in; otherwise such clubs shall be liable for their subscription for the new season.
9. Each club shall pay a membership fee for each team entered consisting of levies for the League, League Tournament, and the play off night. Payment due date will be as indicated on formal invoice issued to each club (typically 1st September preceding the season start date). The amount due for the following season shall be decided annually at the AGM.
10. If a club resigns from the League during the season, all matches played by that club shall be held as null and void. Any player having represented that club will be eligible to represent another club in accordance with Rule 12.
11. The League committee reserve the right to refuse any club, or team, entry to the League or any other competition organised by the League.

Player Eligibility

12. a.) To represent a club, a player must be a registered member under that club's Badminton Scotland affiliation and be individually affiliated to Badminton Scotland unless an exception is agreed upon in advance with the League committee.
 - b.) No player shall play for more than one club, in any one section of the League, in any one season without consultation of the committee. The player involved must submit in writing, reasons for deferral to the league secretary for the assessment of the committee. The committee reserve the right to accept/reject the proposal.
 - c.) No player shall play in more than one match at any one time unless an exception is agreed upon in advance with the League committee.
 - d.) To be eligible to compete in a play-off match, a player must have played for said team at least once during that season's regular fixtures.
13. In the event of a team fielding an ineligible player (as defined in Rule 12a, 12b, 12c, or 12d) in any match, the opposing team will be granted a walk-over as defined in Rule 23.
14. The League committee reserve the right to refuse any player entry to the League or any other competition organised by the League.

Match Organisation

15. a.) The League recognises the following definitions:
 - Men's Singles – played by two opposing male players.
 - Ladies Singles – played by two opposing female players.
 - Men's Doubles – played by two opposing pairs of male players (see 15b).
 - Ladies Doubles – played by two opposing pairs of female players.
 - Mixed Doubles – played by two opposing pairs each containing one male and one female player.

b.) Teams in the mixed doubles and men's doubles sections of the League shall consist of 6 players and each fixture shall comprise nine rubbers. Teams in the ladies doubles section of the League shall consist of 4 players and each fixture shall comprise eight rubbers. Each couple in one team shall play each couple in the opposing team to the best of three games as dictated by the official order of play.

- A ladies team will consist of four females (or three females – see Rules 15e and 15f).
- A mixed team will consist of three pairs, each pair containing one male and one female (or two pairs, each pair containing one male and one female – see Rules 15c, 15d, 17e, and 17f).
- A men's team will consist of six males (or four males – see Rules 15c, 15d, 17e, and 17f).
 - There is an exception in the men's section of the Aberdeen and District Badminton League: the "Ladies Elite" team.
 - The "Ladies Elite" team will consist of six females (or four females – see Rules 15c, 15d, 17e, and 17f) who may be sourced from any club that has a ladies doubles team in the League.
 - In exceptional circumstances, and in order to fulfil a match, a lady may be drafted in who does not match this criterion but is a member of a local club (see Rule 12).
 - No males are permitted to play on the "Ladies Elite" team.

c.) In the mixed doubles and men's doubles sections of the League, the number of occasions a team could field 2 couples in a match during the course of a season shall be no more than 50% of matches scheduled for that team. For example, in a league consisting of 6 teams, any one team may at most play with 2 couples in 5 matches.

d.) In the mixed doubles and men's doubles sections of the League, if the situation arose where you had 2 couples vs 2 couples, the match could be played with the result based on 4 rubbers. This leads to the possibility of a draw (2-2) with 1 point being awarded to each team. This rule is not applicable to an internal Club fixture as per Rule 17e.

e.) In the ladies doubles section of the League, the number of occasions a team could field 3 ladies in a match during the course of a season shall be no more than 50% of matches scheduled for that team.

f.) In the ladies doubles section of the League, if the situation arose where you had 3 ladies vs 3 ladies, the match could be played with the result based on 2 rubbers. This rule is not applicable to an internal Club fixture as per Rule 17g.

16. a.) A draft of the fixtures will be sent to all clubs prior to the 1st August, giving each club the chance to scrutinise their fixtures and give the League a chance to make alterations if required. Thereafter, the date of matches shall be fixed after the 1st August and shall not be altered except in the event of (i) a Badminton International held in the Group area, (ii) any local league organised event falling on the date arranged, (iii) the courts for the match are not available for good cause shown, (iv) such other justifiable reasons which the League committee in its absolute discretion shall determine a justifiable reason for postponement.

b.) The secretary of each team (home and away) must confirm their acceptance of the scheduled fixture at least 7 days prior to the match date (see Rule 21), unless an agreement is otherwise reached. Notice of any postponement shall be intimated by the secretary of the home club to the Website/Scorecard Secretary and to the secretary of the opposing team. The home team will nominate two other mutually match-free dates and the away team must accept one of these dates unless agreement is otherwise reached.

c.) As per Rule 16a, all matches scheduled must be played on the fixed date unless, prior to the fixed date, an agreement is reached for an alternative date. Failing that agreement, the match will be played on the fixed date. If the match is not played, it will be declared null and void or a walk-over granted as decided upon by the league committee on a case-by-case basis.

d.) If a club has two teams (or more depending on limitations) in the same division, any internal matches involving these teams should be scheduled to be played before any external fixtures are scheduled to be played by these teams. Clubs are strongly encouraged to abide by these fixtures, however, it is recognised that at times, and for various reasons, matches may need to be postponed or rescheduled. Teams *must* fulfil any internal fixtures (both home and away) before December 24th of the current season at the *latest*. Failure to comply with this Rule renders the un-played match(es) null and void unless under extenuating

circumstances which the League committee in its absolute discretion shall determine a justifiable reason for postponement.

e.) Failing to comply with Rule 16a, 16b, 16c & 16d may result in the match being declared null and void or a walk-over granted. In the event of either team wishing to claim a walk-over, evidence of correspondence must be submitted to the League committee whose decision shall be final.

17. a.) Should any club entering the league have more than one team in the same section of the league (i.e. Ladies, Men's or Mixed Doubles), the club(s) concerned must, prior to either (any) of these teams playing their first match of the season, submit to the Hon. Sec., for the committee's consideration, a list of the club's top players as indicated below.

b.) For a club with 2 teams; the list should comprise the club's top 4 players (in the case of Ladies Doubles) or top 6 players (in the case of Men's or Mixed Doubles). These nominations are thereafter recognised as being the A Team players for that season.

c.) For a club with 3 teams; the ranked list should comprise the club's top 8 players (in the case of the Ladies Doubles) or top 12 players (in the case of the Men's or Mixed Doubles). The Ranks 1-4 (in case of Ladies Doubles) and 1-6 (in case of Men's or Mixed) will thereafter be recognised as A Team players for that season. The Ranks 5-8 (in case of Ladies Doubles) or 7-12 (in case of Men's or Mixed) will thereafter be recognised as B Team players for that season.

This rule can be applied in a similar fashion for clubs with 4 or more teams in the same section.

d.) Any player may play 'up' freely a maximum of 4 matches per season whether that is for the same higher team or multiple higher teams within a club. If a player plays 'up' a 5th time, they become locked to the specific team they represent on that 5th occasion of playing 'up' and can no longer play 'down' for their original team or play 'up' for any higher teams; in this scenario, lower team nominations must be amended accordingly and submitted to the league committee for approval. (N.B. Instances of playing-up in matches that are subsequently declared walk-overs still count towards the total number of times a player has played 'up'.) Note; players are not permitted in any circumstance to play 'down'. In the event of a team fielding an ineligible player in a match, the opposing team will be granted a walk-over as defined in Rule 23.

e.) In the mixed doubles and men's doubles sections of the League, in the event of a higher ranked team vs a lower ranked team match (i.e. an internal club league fixture such as A vs B, B vs C, or A vs C etc.) where there is one couple short, then the higher ranked team is required to field the full 3 couples and the lower ranked team can field 2 couples. NOTE: Rule 15c must be adhered to, but Rule 15d is not applicable for such matches i.e. to play an internal club league fixture, there must be a minimum of 5 couples.

f.) In the mixed doubles and men's doubles sections of the League, in the event of a club having multiple fixtures against another club (or clubs) simultaneously (e.g. *Club 1's A Team vs Club 2's Team* occurs at the same time as *Club 1's B Team vs Club 3's Team*), the number of pairs fielded per team is at the discretion of the club, but Rule 15c must be adhered to.

g.) In the ladies doubles section of the League, in the event of a higher ranked team vs a lower ranked team match (i.e. an internal club league fixture such as A vs B, B vs C, or A vs C etc.) where there is one player short, then the higher ranked team is required to field the full 4 ladies and the lower ranked team can field 3 ladies. NOTE: Rule 15e must be adhered to, but Rule 15f is not applicable for such matches i.e. to play an internal club league fixture, there must be a minimum of 7 ladies.

h.) In the ladies doubles section of the League, in the event of a club having multiple fixtures against another club (or clubs) simultaneously (e.g. *Club 1's A Team vs Club 2's Team* occurs at the same time as *Club 1's B Team vs Club 3's Team*), the number of ladies fielded per team is at the discretion of the club, but Rule 15e must be adhered to.

i.) During the season, if a new player joins a club who is deemed to be a ranked player then written consent to the committee, via the league secretary, must be made to amend the nominated team players. Similarly, if a ranked player leaves a club during the season then written consent, via the league secretary, should be sought to amend the nominated list of players.

Playing Matches

18. All matches must be played in accordance with the Rules of Badminton as issued by Badminton Scotland. Visiting teams must conform to any local rules in force with the home team. Home captains must explain these rules to the visiting team before the match commences.
19. The home team shall supply the shuttles, which shall conform to the requirements of Badminton Scotland. Feathered shuttlecocks shall be used.
20. The order of play will be settled prior to the commencement of the match. (Refer to the league website for recommended order of play.)
21. All players for both home and away teams should attend at the home team's venue at the starting time confirmed by the home team match secretary to the away team match secretary at least 7 days prior to the match date (see Rule 16). The match shall commence at the appointed time with such rubbers that can be played, subject to court and player availability. If a player from either team arrives more than 30 minutes after the nominated starting time, then the team which that player represents will forfeit the rubbers associated with that player as per the following rules unless the opposing team agrees otherwise:
 - One rubber forfeited per 30 minutes late (as indicated by official order of play).
 - Any incomplete rubbers will be forfeited at the end of the allocated time.
 - Under exceptional circumstances, the above penalties may not be enforced as per the League committee's ruling whose decision shall be final.
22. a.) In the mixed doubles and men's doubles sections of the League, the team which wins five or more rubbers shall be the winner of the match. A winning team is awarded 2 points; a losing team is awarded nil points. In the event of a club gaining a walk-over, Rule 23 will apply. In the event of 2 couples versus 2 couples, please refer to Rule 15d.

b.) In the ladies doubles section of the League, the team which wins five or more rubbers shall be the winner of the match. A winning team is awarded 2 points; a losing team is awarded nil points. In the event of a draw, 1 point is awarded to each team. In the event of a club gaining a walk-over, Rule 23 will apply.
23. a.) In the mixed doubles and men's doubles sections of the League, a club gaining a walk-over shall be awarded 2 points, 9 rubbers and 18 games (all games 21-0). The defaulting team shall be deducted 2 points.

b.) In the ladies doubles section of the League, a club gaining a walk-over shall be awarded 2 points, 8 rubbers and 16 games (all games 21-0). The defaulting team shall be deducted 2 points.
24. In the case of a postponed match, the Website/ Scorecard Secretary should be notified immediately and the mutually agreed alternative date given at the earliest opportunity (see Rule 16). Any matches not played shall be held as null and void or a walk-over granted as decided upon by the league committee on a case-by-case basis. The League encourages clubs to play all matches and discretion may be granted under exceptional circumstances.
25. Matches started should be played to a finish. In the event a match cannot be completed in the allotted time, and on the condition that no player arrived more than 30 minutes after the nominated starting time, the following options apply:
 - i. Where a sufficient number of games have been played to completion, and thus the winner of the match has already been determined, the home team may choose to forfeit the remaining games (similarly, the away team could choose to forfeit remaining games if happy to do so, but general etiquette would lean towards the home team forfeiting). In this scenario, game points already earned will still be recognised e.g. a game stopped at 12-12 and then conceded will be entered on the scorecard as 12-21 (or 21-12). Any games not yet started will be entered as 0-21 (or 21-0). The Scorecard Secretary must be notified of this when the scorecard is submitted along with an account of why the games could not be completed and any additional relevant information.
 - ii. If the outcome of the match has not yet been determined and there is no desire to continue the match, and in agreement with both teams and the League committee, the match can be declared a draw with 1 point being awarded to each team. This should be clearly stated on the scorecard and

the Scorecard Secretary must be notified when the scorecard is submitted along with an account of why the games could not be completed and any additional relevant information.

- iii. If neither team wishes to forfeit or a draw is not agreed, the match is continued at the earliest opportunity with the home team responsible for providing a suitable time and venue. The match must continue from the scoreline where play stopped. Re-arrangement of the match will be held to the same guidelines as a postponed match and the away team should communicate within 7 days and accept reasonable times/dates at the earliest opportunity and not more than 14 days to confirm said match unless agreement is otherwise reached. Failure to comply by either team may result in the remaining games being declared null & void or awarded as a win to one team as decided upon by the league committee on a case-by-case basis. The Scorecard Secretary must be notified with an account of why the games could not be completed and any additional relevant information including current scoreline, but the scorecard is not formally submitted until the games are completed.
26. The match secretary of the winning team shall, within 7 days of the completion of the match, send the result, with full details of opponents, venue, date, full names of players, games and points by e-mail to the Website/ Scorecard Secretary. The official match score sheets shall be used and are available on the league website or on request from the Website/ Scorecard Secretary. It is the League's recommendation that the secretary of each team records the scoresheet to avoid any potential discrepancies.

Protests/Disputes from Matches

27. Any protest arising from a match must be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary of the League committee within 14 days of the said match, and in any event before the end of the season.
28. Any dispute between clubs shall be referred to the League committee whose decision shall be final. Make note that the committee will always favour the playing of badminton matches to decide league standings.
29. Clubs may appeal a committee decision in writing within 14 days of the said decision, and in any event before the end of the season.
30. The League committee will have absolute discretion as to the interpretation of the constitution.

Constitution Revision

31. Any alteration to the Constitution and Rules must be approved at the AGM or an EGM by a majority of the quorum present (one vote per Club shall be counted). Clubs wishing to propose any amendments should intimate their proposals in writing to the Hon. Sec. no later than the season end date for consideration at the next AGM.

TOM METCALFE – CHAIRMAN

ABERDEEN & DISTRICT BADMINTON LEAGUE