

HIGH WYCOMBE & DISTRICT BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

LEAGUE RULES (JUNE 2008)

LEAGUE ORGANISATION

1. Clubs may enter teams for Mens, Ladies, Mixed, Cup and tournaments. These leagues will generally be organised into divisions of up to 7 teams, subject to sufficient teams being available for this purpose.
2. Promotion and relegation will normally be on a two up and two down basis, subject to number of teams entered and is a Committee Decision. No club shall have more than two teams in a First Division.
3.
 - (a) A Fixtures Meeting shall be called by the Committee prior to the start of each season to which all participating clubs must send a representative.
 - (b) Normally matches must not be arranged on the day(s) that any adult tournament organised by the HW&DBA is taking place, and visiting clubs must accept Saturday and/or Sunday fixtures, if necessary.
 - (c) Following publication of the Fixture list, alterations to the list may be made with the consent of the clubs involved, and the appropriate League Secretary MUST be advised of such alterations.
 - (d) A club shall agree to the postponement of a fixture if the venue becomes unavailable for any reason, including when the venue is required to play a HW&DBA League Cup Match. NB. A club shall not be obliged to agree to the postponement of a fixture because certain players are incapacitated or the lack of a full team.
4.
 - (a) If a team is unable to fulfil a fixture, their opponents may claim the match 9-0 in the case of the mixed and mens leagues or 6-0 in the case of the ladies league.
 - (b) In order to fulfil a fixture, a team must be represented by at least two pairs for mens and mixed and 3 players for a ladies.
 - (c)
 - (i) Where an away team cannot fulfil a fixture on the due date, that team's club will be liable for all of the home team club's court hire fees for that fixture unless the home club has received sufficient notice to enable the courts to be cancelled without incurring court hire fees.
 - (ii) The home team may waive these costs at its discretion, and should inform the away team's club of such a decision.
 - (iii) Where the costs are claimed, they must be paid within 21 days of the claim.
 - (d)
 - (i) The appropriate League Secretary must be advised of any claimed matches.
 - (ii) The team claiming the match must submit a match form claiming the match and send in as usual.

5. (a) At the discretion of the Committee, where a team fails to complete its fixtures, all its results shall be null and void in its division and its membership of the relevant league shall be liable to termination.
- (b) Any mixed or mens team which fields 2 pairs, or any ladies team which fields 3 players, on three or more occasions during one season may be invited by the League Committee to justify its remaining in the League.
6. Where teams are level on points at the end of a season the number of rubbers won will decide their league placing, teams level on rubbers will be decided on games won.

Teams level on points, rubbers and games at the end of the season must play-off on a neutral court if a question of championship, promotion or relegation needs to be resolved.
7. New teams will normally be placed in the lowest divisions of the appropriate league, but where an application is received from a team which the Committee considers to be far too strong for the lowest division, they shall have the right to place this team in a division nearer its standard of play. In doing so, the Committee must not relegate a team nor prevent the recently won promotion of a team in order to create a vacancy for the new applicant(s); they may, however, promote a third placed team from a division in order to create a vacancy.

CONDUCT OF MATCHES

8. (a) All matches are to be played under the Laws of Badminton as issued by BADMINTON England.
- (b) All matches in the Mixed, Mens and Ladies leagues must be played with feather shuttles and they must comply with BADMINTON England regulations.
9. (a) Each mixed and mens team should consist of six players divided into three pairs with each pair playing a rubber against each of the opposing pairs.
- (b) Each ladies team should consist of four players divided into two pairs with each pair playing a rubber against each of the opposing pairs, followed by two further rubbers with different pairings.
- (c) In mens, ladies and mixed matches each rubber will consist of the best of three games of 21 points each (with extended play as necessary) except where circumstances do not permit (see rule 11 below).
10. The order of play in all mixed and mens league matches shall be:

Home	1	2	3	2	3	1	3	1	2
	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
Away	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3

The order of play in all ladies league matches shall be as on the official score sheets.

If circumstances, such as availability of extra courts, and/or time constraints, demand a change in the order of play, then an alternative order of play shall be mutually agreed by both captains.

11. Where a home team has to vacate its court by a certain time, then if in the opinion of the home team captain, at the end of the second round, the match cannot be completed by the finishing time, then each rubber of the last round should be played to the best of a single game of 30 with no extended play. This may only happen if that order of play is used which allows for all six pairs to play one rubber of the last three. If a match is played during an evening, and at 10.30 pm the 7th rubber has not started, the last three rubbers **MUST** be played to the best of a single game of 30 points (no extended play). However, this may be waived by agreement of **BOTH** team captains.
12. Matches should start promptly at the published time. If a team fails to supply a pair ready to play within 15 minutes after the agreed time of starting, the first rubber may be claimed and will be conceded to their opponents 21-0, 21-0. Thereafter at intervals of 15 minutes, rubbers will be conceded 21-0, 21-0, until one hour 15 minutes after the agreed time of starting when a match will be deemed to be conceded 9-0, or 6-0 in the case of the ladies league. Alternatively, a team may waive its right to claim rubbers at the start of the 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 in arriving. This latter arrangement **must** be communicated **prior** to the start of the match.
13. (a) In the event of a mixed or mens match taking place where both teams have only two pairs, the unplayed rubbers will be apportioned equally to each team.

(b) Ladies matches may not be played with only one pair.
14. If any unforeseen event causes a match to be abandoned, the match should be replayed unless a winner has already been determined, in which case the rubbers will count. The match may, nevertheless, have to be replayed if at the end of the season either team could have secured a championship, promotion or avoided relegation had they won the unplayed rubbers.
15. For all league table purposes, the team winning a match will be given two points and both sides will be given an extra point if they field a full team. A drawn match will result in one point being given to each team plus a point for fielding a full team. If a match is conceded then the "winning team" will be awarded 3 points (2 for match and 1 point for an assumed full team) the conceding team will receive no points.
16. The winning team is responsible for completing the match result sheet and forwarding it to the appropriate League Secretary within 48 hours from the end of the match. In the event of a drawn match the home team is responsible for this task.

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

17. (a) A player shall not (subject to (b) below) represent more than one club in the Mixed League in any one season, nor shall a lady/man represent more than one club in the Ladies/Mens League during any one season.

(b) If a player has played only one match for a club before 31st December, that player may transfer to another club for the rest of the season – this transfer being registered with the appropriate League Secretary between the dates of 31 December and 14 January. The player will not be eligible to play a match for the new team until seven days after re-registration. League Cup Rule No 4 will also apply.

18. Prior to its first league match of the season, each club must lodge with the Committee a list of players' names from whom the club intends to select its team(s) for the coming season. All players concerned must be bona fide full paying members of the club concerned. Any additions to this list must be submitted to the appropriate League Secretary and 7 days must elapse from the date of submission before any added player(s) may play in a league match. If a club knowingly fields a player under an assumed name, that club will lose the relevant match 9-0 (Mixed and Mens) or 6-0 (Ladies) and a point will be deducted from its league points total.
19.
 - (a) Clubs with more than one team in a Wycombe league must nominate all but their lowest team prior to any of their matches in that league.
 - (b) Nominated teams must consist of players intending to represent that team and the League Secretary shall have the right to request the reason for non-representation by a nominated player.
 - (c) Nominated players may be dropped to a lower team provided that they have not played more than three matches for the higher team. Once a player has been dropped to a lower team he/she may not play for the higher team again in that season. The appropriate League Secretary must be advised.
 - (d) Players of a lower team may be promoted to a higher team on three occasions and still remain eligible for the lower team. A player may play up on more than 3 occasions only with the permission of the League Secretary.
 - (e) At the discretion of the League Secretary, when a team has played half of its fixtures in a division, before the next match it shall have the opportunity of de-registering one player to a lower team and nominating another as a replacement for the higher team. The de-registered player will only be allowed to play up in any higher team again for the rest of that season at the discretion of the League Secretary.

GENERAL RULES

20. If entry fees are requested for visiting teams in a match to be held at a Sports Centre, the home team will be responsible for paying such fees for their opponents.
21. Where clubs enter only one team in a Wycombe league, the Association would like to stress the desirability of such clubs fielding a regular team in order to make that division as equal as possible for their opponents. In the event of this rule being continually infringed, the appropriate League Secretary shall have the right to ask for the offending club to justify such infringements.
22. Clubs may not enter players into their teams for the last league match of the season, unless such players have played in at least one previous match in that team. In case of difficulty in fielding a full team for this last match, clubs may request the appropriate League Secretary to use their discretion to waive this rule.

JUNE 2008