

**Rules**

1. The Competition shall be called the ‘Northamptonshire Badminton League’.

2. The league shall consist of clubs affiliated to the Northamptonshire Badminton Association, and shall conform to the Rules of that said association.

3. The league shall be controlled by a management committee to consist of a Chairman, Fixture Secretary, Match Secretary, Correspondence Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.

4. The AGM shall be held not later than 30th June each year, each participating club to have one voting representative, clubs to have twenty-eight days’ notice.

5. The Annual subscription shall be £5 for each team entered payable before the clubs first match. Matches played before payment will be forfeited 9-0.

6. Every club wishing to enter a team or teams in the league, will submit these in writing to the Match/Fixtures Secretary, at least seven days before the AGM.

7. The league shall be divided into four disciplines; any inter-club matches must be completed before any other match is played by any of these teams or the match result will not be counted.

**Doubles sections** – Team shall consist of three ladies and three men. Matches shall consist of nine events, three men’s doubles, three ladies’ doubles and three mixed doubles. The players shall be ranked according to strength, number 1 man

Playing with number 2 and also number 3, numbers 2 and 3 play together to complete the third event. Ladies to play in a similar manner. Ranking for mixed doubles shall be in pairs according to strength and may possibly be different from men’s and ladies’ doubles.

**Mixed sections** – Teams shall consist of three pairs and matches shall consist of nine events.

**Men’s section** – Teams shall consist of three pairs and matches shall consist of nine events. *Ladies will be eligible to play for a Men’s team, and the score from any event involving ladies within a Men’s team should be included in the final score for the match.*

**Ladies section** – Teams shall consist of four players and the matches shall consist of six events.

Each captain shall present the composition of their team to the opposing captain in writing before the start of play and no alteration shall be made therein, save by mutual consent.

8. Promotion and relegation shall be automatic in all sections. The bottom team in a division will be replaced by the top team in the division immediately below.

9. Clubs shall play home and away matches with all the clubs in the same division. Where matches are played on neutral courts, the first named club on the fixture list shall be regarded as the home team and shall carry the responsibilities attached to the home club.

10. A player shall not, in the same season, play for more than one club in the same discipline of the League, and shall be a bona-fide member of that club.

11. Clubs entering more than one team in a discipline shall nominate four players (two players for the ladies) in each of the higher teams. In the mixed and doubles, the four must consist of two men and two ladies. No nominations are required for the lowest team entered.

Nominations MUST be sent to the League Match/Fixtures Secretary before the commencement of the season’s fixture. Failure to do this will result in the top four players on a team’s first match card automatically becoming the nominated players for that team. If any of them have already played for a lower team in that discipline, then the appropriate penalty for a nomination violation will be applied.

Please note that it is the club’s responsibility to ensure that nominations are managed correctly.

Application:

1. Players can play for any team subject to conditions b & c.
2. A nominated player shall not play for a lower team during that season.
3. If during a season, a player plays three games for any higher teams, that player can no longer play for a given lower team.

Example for a C team player:

* Plays two games for an A team and one for a B team, they can no longer play for a C team.
* If a nominated player, goes on to play a third game for the A team, they can no longer play for the B or C team.

12. Each club shall score 2 points for a win. In the event of a match being unfinished, the score at the time of abandonment shall be expunged and the match replayed, unless a decision has been reached on the night.

13. Matches may only be postponed for bad weather, non-availability of the home team’s hall or by mutual consent of both teams, or any other reasons considered as valid by the Management Committee. The date of the postponed match should be notified to the Match/Fixtures Secretary within seven days following the original date or one point will be deducted from the home team. The Match/Fixtures Secretary MUST be notified with the new date before it is played or one point will be deducted from the home team.

14. Where a team fails to put in an appearance, or turns up to play a match with an incomplete team – i.e. less than 6 valid registered players (4 for Ladies) – then a penalty will apply: penalty for the first offence – SUSPENDED, on more than one occasion a deduction of 1 point for each offence. Any team forfeiting more than 2 points in a season shall be automatically relegated in place of the bottom team at the end of the season and all of that team’s results will be removed from the league tables.

15. All league matches are to be played under the rally-point scoring system. A detailed score sheet of all matches, signed by both captains, shall be posted, e-mailed or messaged, by the WINNING TEAM to the League Match/Fixtures Secretary, to arrive within 7 days of the match. Failure to do this WILL result in a one-point deduction.

16. All clubs must use a shuttle authorised by the League Management Committee for all its League matches. The home team having the choice are responsible for supplying shuttles of the correct speed laid down in the laws. All matches to be played with feather shuttlecocks.

17. In the event of a tie in any section, i.e. two clubs obtaining the same number of points, the championship shall be warded to the club winning the most rubbers. If the clubs are equal on rubbers, then the club with the highest aggregate score of games won, minus games lost, shall be awarded the higher position. If the clubs are still equal, then the aggregate score from their head to head rubbers will dictate the winning team.

18. Any club withdrawing from the League before completing its engagements shall have all records of its played matches expunged.

19. Any disputes shall be decided by the League Management Committee, whose decision shall be final.

20. Alterations, or additions to the Rules, must be made at the Annual General Meeting. Any proposal for a rule change must be submitted to the Correspondence Secretary in writing, by 31 May for consideration at the AGM.

21. Players are required to start within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time, as shown in the Handbook, unless otherwise notified. If this does not occur and the match cannot be finished because the hall time has expired, then the rubber can be claimed by the home team. The order of play must be mutually agreed at the same time. If the order of play cannot be agreed, it will commence as follows: -

First v First, Second v Second and Third v Third.

22. The league is responsible for the suitable insurance of the league trophies. The league shall be responsible for engraving the trophies and the cost thereof.

The trophies MUST be returned to a member of the league committee by the end of April, or a £5.00 penalty will incur.

23. No player may take part in any League match until registered with the Northamptonshire Badminton Association. After 31st October of each season any new member joining an affiliated club must have been a registered member of that club for a period of not less than seven clear days before representing that club in any League match. After 31st January a period of not less than twenty-eight clear days.

24. No player will be allowed to register for a club whilst owing money to any other club within the Northamptonshire Badminton Association.

25. Clubs that cannot field a team to compete a fixture must comply with the following conditions:-
a) Less than one week notice the club is required to pay £21 towards the cost of the hall.
b) Less than 48 hours’ notice the club is required to pay £42 towards the cost of the hall.