

# **Rules of the Hull and District Badminton League**

**2021 to 2022 Season**

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## A. CONSTITUTION

1. The association shall be called The Hull and District Badminton League (hereafter called the League).
2. The aim of the League shall be:
  - (a) to promote competitive badminton within Hull and District
  - (b) to further the growth of badminton in the area.
3. The laws of the game shall be those of the International Badminton Federation.
4. MEMBERSHIP. A club shall be eligible for membership if:
  - (a) it and all its playing members registered with the Hull & District Badminton League are affiliated to and have paid fees due to Badminton England by 1st December of each season. Clubs must send copies of confirmation of payment to Badminton England to the General Secretary by 1st of December each season.
  - (b) it is not in debt to the League.
  - (c) the initial application for membership is approved by the Council.
  - (d) it has provided a nomination as required by A5.
5. OFFICERS of the league shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall comprise a maximum of nine officers, as follows:
  - Chairman
  - General Secretary
  - Trophy Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Match Secretary
  - Publicity Secretary
  - Social Secretary
  - Junior Secretary

However, in the event that an officer volunteers to carry out the roles of two or more duties the overall number of officers can be less than nine.

In the absence of any nominations to replace any retiring Officers, the Committee will select a Club or Clubs if more than one Officer is required, drawn at random, who have not provided a Committee member in the last three years, and this Club(s) will be asked to provide a nomination to the available post(s). People who volunteer or are chosen will attend a minimum of two

committee meetings in addition to the duties outlined under Duties of Officers. Failure to do so will result in that club(s) suspension from the League.

An outgoing Officer of the League is required to handover all their responsibilities to the incoming Officer before the first committee meeting of the new season (which is normally held on the first Sunday in November). Failure to do so will result in the individuals been suspended from the league until the handover is complete.

6. STANDING COMMITTEES - shall be as follows:

- (a) League Committee being the officers.
- (b) League Council being the League Committee and one named representative (or the appointed proxy) of each club.

7. MEETINGS

- (a) Annual General Meeting. The AGM shall be held on the **3rd Monday in May**. Any individual from a member club may attend a General Meeting without the right to vote. Those eligible to vote at a General Meeting shall be members of the council (or their appropriate proxy).
- (b) Council Meeting. All members shall have the right to vote.
  - A Council meeting will be held to discuss applications for the league, this will ordinarily be held on the **penultimate Friday in September**.
  - A subsequent Council meeting will be held to agree and confirm fixtures, this will ordinarily be held on the **last Friday in September**.
- (c) League Committee Meetings.

8. VOTING

- (a) All elections of officers, committees and delegates shall be by show of hands unless a request for a ballot receives a majority vote.
- (b) Voting on motions at General, Council and Committee meetings shall be by a show of hands unless a request for a ballot receives a majority vote.
- (c) Voting at other meetings shall be by show of hands unless a request for a ballot receives a majority vote.
- (d) Any vote shall be deemed carried if there is a majority in favour of the motion, except for votes on alterations to rules, when two-thirds of the people present entitled to vote must be in favour of the motion.
- (e) In the event of the votes cast being equally for and against, the Chairman of the meeting shall have the right to a casting vote.

## 9. ALTERATIONS TO RULES

- (a) Propositions to amend or add to the rules may be debated at the Annual General Meeting only.
- (b) Propositions to amend or add to the rules must be sent in writing to the General Secretary specifying the rule it is proposed to change and any other rule which would be affected.
- (c) Propositions for the Annual General Meeting must be received by 1st March and should be signed by a representative of the member club making the proposition. Propositions from the League Committee should be signed by the Chairman.

## B. STANDING ORDERS

### 1. MEETINGS

(a) Notice of meetings – together with agenda shall be issued as follows:

1. Annual General meetings: 28 days prior to the meeting
2. League Council meetings: 14 days prior to the meeting
3. League Committee meetings: 14 days prior to the meeting except as required under by-law 6(c).
4. Emergency General Meetings: 7 days prior to the meeting.
5. Sub-Committee meetings: 7 days prior to the meeting.

(b) Number of meetings per year

1. There shall be at least 1 Annual General meeting.
2. There shall be a minimum of 2 Council meetings.
3. There shall be a minimum of 5 League Committee meetings.

(c) Quorum for meetings shall be:

1. Annual General Meeting: 50% of affiliated clubs rounded up should there be an odd number of clubs.
2. League Council Meeting: 50% of affiliated clubs rounded up should there be an odd number of clubs.
3. Other meetings: 3 people.

(d) Co-option

The League Committee and its sub-committees shall have the power to co-opt members to a meeting: co-opted members shall not have the right to vote.

(e) Vacancies

The League Committee and its sub-committees shall have the power to co-opt members to a meeting: co-opted members shall not have the right to vote.

(f) Calling of meetings

1. A General meeting shall be called:
  - i. on the requisition of the League Committee:
  - ii. on the requisition of 5 member clubs of the League: the requisition must be signed by an official of each member club.

A General meeting shall be held within 56 days of receipt of the requisition.

The Agenda shall specify all motions to be dealt with, and no other business shall be dealt with.

2. A Council meeting shall be called:
  - i. on the requisition of the League
  - ii. on the requisition of 5 member clubs of the council.

A council meeting shall be held within 28 days of receipt of the requisition.

The Agenda shall specify all motions to be dealt with, and no other business shall be dealt with.

3. League Committee - and its sub-committees shall be called at the request of any three members. Such a meeting shall be held within 21 days of receipt of the request.
4. Emergency general meeting shall be called at the request of any three members of the League Committee. Such a meeting shall be held within 10 days of receipt of the request.

## 2. ELECTIONS

Nominations shall be made in writing to the Secretary stating name and address of nominee, the proposer and seconder, together with the written consent of the nominee, not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## C. TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (a) To receive and, if approved, adopt the Annual Report and the audited Statement of Accounts.

- (b) To confirm the Officers subject to any ballot that may have been held.
- (c) To consider any motions submitted.
- (d) To decide upon the membership fee for the following season.
- (e) To appoint an auditor.

## 2. COUNCIL

- (a) To deal with any matters referred to it by the league Committee.
- (b) To deal with applications for membership of the League.
- (c) To approve the constitution of the League Divisions.

## 3. LEAGUE COMMITTEE

- (a) To deal with general administration of the League.
- (b) To be responsible for approving any expenditure by an Officer.
- (c) To be responsible for selecting teams representing the League.
- (d) To approve player registrations as necessary.
- (e) To consider recommendations of any sub-committee.
- (f) To consider complaints and, if necessary, refer cases to an appropriate meeting
- (g) To arrange dates of meetings.
- (h) To discuss any suggestions for alterations or additions to the rules submitted by the League and formulate a proposal for a General Meeting.

#### 4. GENERAL MEETING

- (a) To debate any proposals for alterations or additions to the rules of the League.
- (b) To debate any motions referred to it by the Council or the League Committee.

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS

#### 1. CHAIRMAN

- (a) Chair any meeting
- (b) Be responsible with the Secretary for the issuing of the agenda.

#### 2. GENERAL SECRETARY

- (a) Carrying out of League Committee, Council and General meetings decisions.
- (b) Minuting of meetings of the League Committee, Council and General Meetings.
- (c) Sending of notices and agenda, in consultation with the Chairman, for meetings.

#### 3. TREASURER

- (a) Collection of fees.
- (b) Payment of accounts.
- (c) Care of any investments
- (d) Keeping of accurate accounts.
- (e) Assistance in drawing up the budget.
- (f) Assistance in drawing up an Annual statement of the Accounts.

#### 4. TROPHY SECRETARY

- (a) Preparing and issuing the annual fixture programme.
- (b) Monitoring and engraving of League trophies.

#### 5. MATCH SECRETARIES

- (a) Organising the formation of the leagues and fixtures using the Sportsman website. Ready for the League Fixture Meeting.
- (b) Regular monthly checking that all fixtures scheduled for the previous month have been played and the result entered on the Sportsman website.
- (c) Investigating any disputed match result entries.
- (d) Ensuring that the league tables are correct and fully reflect the matches that should have been completed.

#### 6. PUBLICITY SECRETARY

- (a) Maintenance of the league website
- (b) Inputting of newsworthy items and regular updates of League tables on the website.
- (c) When appropriate, submission of suitable items to the local media

#### 7. SOCIAL SECRETARY

- (a) Organisation and management of the annual League presentation event
- (b) Running of any other suitable event for the benefit of the League

#### 8. JUNIOR SECRETARY

- (a) Organisation, management and running of appropriate junior tournaments throughout the playing season.
- (b) Collection of entry fees, payment of incidental expenses and subsequent accounting for the events with the Treasurer

## **D. BY-LAWS**

### **1. LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP**

- (a) Any club failing to pay its membership at or before the Council meeting dealing with registrations shall have its membership suspended until such fees are paid.
- (b) Any club failing to provide a nomination as required by Paragraph A5 shall have the membership of its players suspended.

### **2. FIXTURES**

- a) The match fixtures for the next season will be made available on the Sportsganiser website prior to the League Council Meeting to arrange fixtures. Clubs are encouraged to review the fixtures online before the meeting, and identify any fixtures that need to be rearranged. Ordinarily, a fixture should only be rearranged to due non-availability of courts. During the meeting, clubs will agree a new date with the opposing team for fixtures that need to be changed, and the home team will enter the new date onto the Sportsganiser website. Clubs will need to obtain a signature from a representative of each opposing team to confirm that they have agreed to the fixture dates, details of which must be returned to the Match Secretary before the end of the meeting.
- b) Matches played after the end of April will be void. No match to be played on a Sunday, unless by the mutual consent of the teams concerned.
- c) Where a club has two or more teams in a division, the first match with each other must be played before the end of November and the return before the end of February. Failure to comply will result in the loss of points, rubbers, sets etc by both teams.
- d) Non-availability of courts is the only permitted reason for the postponement of a match, and at least one week's notice of such postponement should be given to the opposing club, except that, in the event of impossible road conditions, a match may be postponed by the mutual consent of representatives of the clubs concerned on the day of the match. In the event of disagreement either club can appeal to the League Secretary for a binding decision. The League Match Secretary must be informed of the date of any such re-arranged fixtures, by representatives of both clubs. Failure to do so may result in the match being declared void. The League Committee will be the final arbiter in such matters.

- e) Fixtures can be rearranged with mutual agreement of both clubs at least one week prior to the original fixture. The League Match secretary must be informed of the new date before the original fixture by both clubs.

### 3. RESULTS

- a) The captain, or a member, of the home team must enter the result of a match on the Sportsganiser website within 4 days of the date of the fixture. **Failure to do so will result in a 3-point penalty.** The captain, or nominated member, of the away team should confirm the result as correct on the website within 7 days of the fixture. Any inaccuracies must be reported in the notes section of the match report. Or it can be reported directly to the Match Secretary for investigation. Both the home and away teams must keep a copy of the match details until the end of the season, signed by a member of the opposing team.
- b) Rubbers will consist of two games of 21 points (rally points scoring) with a third game in the event of a tie in the first two.
- c) Points will be awarded as follows (mixed & levels sections):-
  - 3 points for a match won
  - 1 point for 5-4 defeat
  - 1.5 points for a match tied
- d) Points will be awarded as follows (ladies section):-
  - 3 points for a match won
  - 1 points for a match tied

### 4. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

- a) In any section (mixed, ladies or level doubles) clubs must register players for every team using FORM R. Such registrations must be received by the League Match Secretary before that club plays its first match of the season. The League committee has the right to refuse the registration of any player and no player will be allowed to play for another club whilst owing money to their previous club(s).
- (b) Club secretaries must update their list of players on the Sportsganiser website to mirror the details of registered players submitted to the Match Secretary under 4(a) before the club plays its first match of the season.
- (c) During the course of the season the names of new players to be registered (or re-registrations) must be sent to the League Match Secretary along with the team they need to

be registered to and their BE Affiliation number (emailed to hullbadmintonleague@sportsganiser.net) and they will be eligible to play unless notified otherwise by the League Committee. Following the email being sent, the Club Secretary must add the new player(s) to their list of players on the Sportsganiser website within 7 days, or earlier if they are due to play in a match.

- (d) Player registration or re-registration will only be considered until the end of February, unless a genuine permanent vacancy arises.

For new players, failure to provide their BE affiliation number will result in the non-acceptance of the registration until such time as it is provided.

- (e) No player may play for more than one club in any section. Any player found to have contravened this rule will have their case discussed by the League Committee. The Committee will determine a penalty based upon the circumstances.
- (f) A player may be reserve on three occasions in the level and mixed sections (that is play for a team higher than the one for which they are registered for at the start of the season). A note stating that they are a reserve should be added to the notes section of the match report. If a player plays as a reserve on a fourth occasion they are automatically registered to the next higher team and may no longer play as a reserve for a higher team. If a player is re-registered during a season to a lower team they cannot reserve for a higher team for the remainder of the season unless they have played less than 3 matches for their original registered team, and higher if that team is not the A team.
- (g) Any permanent team vacancy occurring during the season must be filled by a new registration. If a player misses 3 consecutive matches in a section, (mixed or level doubles) a reason for these absences must be given on the match card or in writing to the committee. The League committee will reserve the right to enforce by law 6f.

## **5. PLAYER CONDUCT**

- a) All teams must play in suitable badminton attire, white dress is preferred but coloured clothing may be worn.

## **6. MATCH TIMES & ORDER OF PLAY**

- a) League matches commence at 7.00pm or by mutual agreement. Teams must have ONE pair ready to start playing within 15 minutes of the official start time of the match. (So if the start time is 7 pm the deadline for the first rubber to actually commence, not warm up, is 7.15.) If not the team with no pairs ready to play will be penalised by the rubber that should have

commenced being awarded to the team with pairs ready to play. If both teams have no pairs ready this rule is void (Home and away).

- b) All couples should be ready and fit to follow on in the correct order of play.
- c) Unfinished and unplayed rubbers can be claimed if at least one pair is not ready to play at the agreed time, subject to the availability of courts. The League Committee shall be the final arbiters on receipt of the completed match card.
- d) The order of play can be either

<b>Home</b>	1	2	3	2	3	1	3	1	2
<b>Away</b>	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3

Or

<b>Home</b>	1	2	3	2	1	3	2	3	1
<b>Away</b>	1	2	3	1	3	2	3	1	2

Each club to determine which format it wants to use for its home matches.

- e) All matches shall finish no later than 11.00pm, except where court time is unlimited the visiting team shall have the option to play to a finish if they inform the home team before the start of the match. Each member club must maintain details on the Sportsganiser website of any time limit on the availability of their hall.
- f) There must be a minimum of 4 hours court-time available per match.
- g) In all matches, the home team shall provide the courts at no expense to the visiting team players.
- h) For the purposes of lets, faults, etc, the visiting teams shall adhere to the home club's local rules.
- i) The League shall not be held liable for any damage, losses or injuries incurred before, during or after any of its fixtures or organised events howsoever caused.

## 7. SHUTTLES

- a) A minimum of 12 new feather shuttles must be available at the home club's expense. A new shuttle should be available for each rubber.

## 8. TEAM FORMATION

- a) A team in the mixed or levels section will comprise of three couples
  - Mixed - 3 men and 3 ladies playing in mixed pairs;
  - Level doubles – 6 players consisting of either

(6 men, 6 ladies, 4 men & 2 ladies or 2 men & 4 ladies playing in single-sex pairs)

- No couple may be divided to complete the fixture.
- b) A team in the Ladies section will comprise of two female couples playing in single-sex pairs. The ladies in each team should be ranked from 1 to 4, and the following rubbers will be played (though not necessarily in this order):

Game	Home Team	Away Team
1	Lady 1 & Lady 2	Lady 1 & Lady 2
2	Lady 3 & Lady 4	Lady 3 & Lady 4
3	Lady 1 & Lady 3	Lady 1 & Lady 3
4	Lady 2 & Lady 4	Lady 2 & Lady 4
5	Lady 1 & Lady 4	Lady 1 & Lady 4
6	Lady 2 & Lady 3	Lady 2 & Lady 3

## 9. PENALTIES

- a) No player may represent more than one team in a single evening. In such an event all the rubbers played in by that person will be forfeited to the opposition.
- b) A club playing an ineligible player will forfeit any rubbers, sets, etc scored **by the team** in that match. (An ineligible player is a player who is not registered for that club in that section.)
- c) A club knowingly playing an unregistered player must inform the opposition before such a player commences play and write a note in the appropriate section on the match report. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of the match except in extenuating circumstances. The opposing team if they so wish, can play out of turn. (An unregistered player is a player who is registered for that club in that section, but is not legitimately available to play as a reserve. (Rubbers played by that pairing are awarded to the opposition 21-0, 21-0).
- d) Rubbers not played because of an incomplete team will be forfeited to the opposing team. For example if a player becomes injured during the match.
- e) A team fielding an incomplete team result in total loss of points, rubbers, sets etc. except, where there are exceptional extenuating circumstances. However, dispensation will be given to field only one or two couples without penalty on one occasion per team per season or on two occasions for the lowest ranked team in a section. The League Committee will be the final arbiter.
- f) A team giving a match to their opponents by default shall be penalised by the deduction of three points for each match given. If a team contacts their opponents at least one week prior to the match to concede as they are unable to field a team they will not be penalised.

- g) A team, which has points deducted under by-law 9, may be relegated one or more divisions at the end of the season, upon a second offence in the season. The number of divisions to be decided by the Council at the meeting held on the last Friday in September.

## 10. LEAGUE FORMATION

League positions will be decided on points gained. In the event of a tie on points, the team with the most rubbers gained shall be awarded the highest position. In the event of a tie on rubbers, the final position shall be determined by the difference between sets won and lost.

The League shall be organised into sections (mixed, ladies and level doubles)

- (b) A trophy shall be awarded to each division winner and runner-up.
- (c) It shall be the right of winners and runners-up in each division to be promoted to the next higher division and the bottom two teams to be relegated to the next lower division. These rules to apply where there are 8 teams in that division. In divisions comprising less than 8 teams only the winner/bottom team will be promoted or relegated by right.
- (d) The League's normal promotion/relegation rules will be applied in all divisions of all leagues unless both the team(s) being relegated and the team(s) being promoted agree to the status quo. Thus, ordinarily, a team (or teams) gaining and wishing for promotion will compel a team (or teams) from the higher division to be relegated. Conversely a team finishing in a relegation position and wishing to be relegated will ordinarily compel a team to be promoted from the lower division. However, no team will be compelled to take a place in a higher division without sufficient strength to complete at that level. In such an instance the League Committee will determine the size of a division based upon a playing standard.
- (e) In the event of a team(s) withdrawing after the compilation of the division, it shall not be included in division results, but be allocated last place(s) in that division.
- (f) A team may apply not to be promoted or relegated, in line with 12c and any team may apply to be included in a higher or lower division (using Form B). Any application must give reasons for the request.
- (g) The date by which applications for the league should be made to the Secretary will be agreed at the AGM, ordinarily this will be the Tuesday preceding the council meeting on the penultimate Friday in September.