

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

COUNTY LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2017-2018

General rules

1. All clubs participating in the County League must be affiliated to their own county association and the Badminton England.
2. Clubs with their playing venues outside Hertfordshire must be associated to the Hertfordshire Badminton Association (H.B.A) and must have obtained sanction from their own county association. From 2010 clubs from outside Herts. will be required to find a home venue within the county.
3. Leagues may consist of Ladies six, Men's six, Ladies fours, Men's fours, Mixed six and Medley Leagues.
4. The H.B.A. committee reserve the right to refuse the entry of a team in any league without assigning a reason and their decision will be final.
5. All players must be full members of the club they represent.
6. All matters relating to disputes between clubs arising out of the Leagues, whether or not covered expressly by these regulations, shall be referred for decision to the League co-ordinator whose decision shall be final.
7. The H.B.A. committee reserves the right to amend these regulations and to appoint organisers as required.

Arrangement of Leagues

1. Each team shall play home and away matches against every other team in that division unless some other arrangement is agreed by the League co-ordinator.
2. Clubs shall be responsible for arranging matches with their opponents.
3. The League co-ordinator should be advised of any amendments to match fixtures as soon as possible. A fixture may only be moved with the agreement of both teams and the club who has asked for the re-arrangement should be prepared to pay any extra costs incurred if required. If the fixture cannot be rearranged the club that cannot fulfil the fixture must concede the match.
4. The **home** team shall be responsible for entering the result on the online system within **seven days of the match**. Additionally the **home** team shall be responsible for forwarding the completed scorecard (via post or emailing the scanned document) to the league coordinator within **seven days of the match**.. Failure to do so might result in the match being awarded to the away side with maximum points. Exceptional circumstances may be submitted to the League co-ordinator for consideration whose decision will be final.
5. Any club entering more than one team in any one event shall submit the necessary nominations for all teams except the lowest before a match is played. The required nominations are:
 - a. Two lady and two men players in the Mixed or Medley event.
 - b. Four players in Ladies six and Men's six events
 - c. Three players in the Ladies four and Men's four events.
6. If a club has two or more teams in the same division of the same League then six players for the "six" events and four players for the "fours" events shall be nominated for all teams except the lowest one. In the event of team changes a written request for change of nomination shall be made to the League co-ordinator.

7. If a club has two or more teams in the same division of the same competition then one match must be played before any other matches and the other by the 1st of January.
8. No player may represent more than one club during any one season in any one league unless they change clubs during the season in which case they may not then play for their previous club, **Only players who have played no more than 3 matches for their previous club can represent their new club in the league.** The League co-ordinator must be informed of such a change before any more matches are played by that player.
9. Nominated players shall not be eligible to play for a lower team in the same event during the same season.
10. A player that has not been nominated, having played in 3 of the season's matches for a higher graded team, shall no longer be eligible to play for a lower graded team during that event in that season.
11. The league matches will be scored as follows:
 - a. Each team will be awarded points equal to the number of rubbers won by each team.
 - b. In the "six" events 2 bonus points will be awarded for a win except in the situation where a whole match is conceded.
12. The positions of teams in divisions shall be decided as follows:
 - a. The team with the highest number of **points won**
 - b. The team with the most match wins
 - c. If it is still a tie the position will be determined from the results of the matches between the relevant teams.
13. Promotion and relegation in the County Leagues will be as follows except for allowed for in rule 14:
 - a. If there are six or more teams in one division then there will be two teams promoted and two teams relegated.
 - b. If there are five or fewer in each division then there will be one team promoted and one team relegated.
14. Where teams entering or leaving the county league require the structure of the divisions to be altered, then the final positions will be determined by the league co-ordinator. Regard will be given to the normal rules of promotion and relegation and the strength of the team concerned.
15. In the "six" events each pair shall contest the best of three games to 21 by rally point scoring against each pair of the opposing team, In exceptional circumstances, if both team captains agree and at any stage of the match, any rubbers not yet played may be replaced with one game to 31 points using rally point scoring (no setting).
16. In the "four" events the players must be nominated in strict order of strength to the agreement of both team captains. Each player partners each of their team members against the corresponding pair of the opposing team and shall contest the best of three games to 21 by rally point scoring. In exceptional circumstances, if both team captains agree and at any stage of the match, any rubbers not yet played may be replaced with one game to 31 points using rally point scoring (no setting). In the mixed medley four event, if the match is drawn at 3-3 an additional single game to 21 (with setting) will be played to determine the winner. The result will then become 4-3.
17. All matches are to be completed by the 30th April. An extension may be allowed at the discretion of the league organiser.
18. Matches shall be conducted in accordance with the laws of badminton as adopted by Badminton England.
19. Every effort should be made to arrive at matches early and be ready to start at the specified time, In the event of a team (or part of) being so late as to delay the playing of any rubbers by more than 20 minutes then the team which has been kept waiting is entitled (if they wish) to claim a rubber for every 20 minutes they have to wait.

20. If the match starts on time but cannot be finished because the courts become unavailable then the home side should concede any unfinished / unplayed rubbers.