

ESSEX COUNTY BADMINTON ASSOCIATION
Regulations governing the 'Essex County League'

1. Objectives

- a) The object of the league is to encourage and promote competitive badminton by providing a framework for club league matches.
- b) Competition in the form of inter-club matches shall be arranged and such competitions shall be known as the 'League' and 'League Matches'. All games in such league matches shall be played according to the Laws of Badminton from time to time in place and subject to the Rules and Regulations of Badminton England except to the extent expressly provided for in these regulations.

2. Organisation

- a) The League shall be organised by the County League Secretary.
- b) The County League Secretary shall be elected at the ECBA Annual General Meeting.
- c) A League Management Committee of up to three club representatives shall be selected from among the member clubs at the Annual Fixture Meeting to assist the Secretary. No club shall have more than one representative on this group.
- d) The League Management Committee shall be responsible for;
 - i. ensuring that the Rules governing the League are applied consistently,
 - ii. resolving disputes quickly and fairly,
 - iii. representing the views of participating clubs and players.

3. Changes to these Rules

- a) Changes may be adopted during the close season (May - August).
- b) Changes require a majority of votes received. Each club has one vote regardless of the number of teams it enters. The Essex County Badminton Association also holds one vote. Voting may be conducted over e-mail, at the County AGM or the annual Fixture Meeting.
- c) Proposals for changes must be forwarded to the League Secretary who will circulate to member clubs for consideration giving at least two weeks for votes to be received.

4. Membership

- a) Entry to the League shall be available to any club playing in a suitable hall and affiliated to the Essex County Badminton Association. The League Secretary will decide suitability of the venue. Entries should be submitted to the League Secretary in the appropriate form by no later than 31st August in each year.
- b) An affiliated club may enter one or more teams in any of the Ladies' Men's & Mixed competitions.
- c) Match Secretaries of clubs entering the league will meet before 15th September each year to arrange fixtures and conduct any other necessary business. The County League Secretary will convene the meeting and notify the clubs. All competing clubs shall send a representative to such meeting.
- d) By 15th October each year (or by the date of their first league match if sooner) every competing club shall pay the appropriate entry fees.
- e) If, subsequently, the clubs agree any amendments to fixtures, each club shall notify in writing the County League Secretary within a reasonable timeframe.

5. Divisions

- a) If numbers permit, sections of the league shall be arranged into Divisions in order of seniority and limited to 6 teams in each division.

- b) Where there are fewer than 4 entries for any one section, the County League Secretary may decline to run that section after consultation with the entrants.
- c) Where teams did not compete in the league in the previous season, their allocation to their respective divisions shall be at the absolute discretion of the County League Secretary. The composition of teams in each section (e.g. 6 or 4 or some other number) and the format of the competition (e.g. home and away, American or combination) shall be determined before clubs are invited to enter.
- d) Where teams of 6 play on a home and away basis and each fixture has 9 rubbers, points will be awarded as follows: 1 point for fielding a full team, 3 points for scoring 6 or more rubbers, 2 points for scoring 5 rubbers and 1 point for scoring 4 rubbers.
- e) Combination teams will score 1 point for fielding a full team. 3 points for scoring 4 or more rubbers and 2 points for scoring 3 rubbers,
- f) Players must be listed in order of strength, prior to the start of the match and that order cannot be altered in any way after the match has commenced. Any dispute as to the application of this regulation is to be referred to the County League Secretary who shall adjudicate. His decision shall be final.
- g) The County League Secretary may allow a club to have more than two teams in the bottom division of any section and where a club has two or more teams in the same division of any section, the matches between such teams shall be completed by the 31st December.

6. Matches

- a) Unless it is mutually agreed otherwise, in any section of the league where matches consist of 9 rubbers and the home team plays in:
 - i. a one court hall, it shall provide a minimum court time of 5 hours,
 - ii. a two court hall, it shall provide a minimum court time of 2.5 hours on each court,
 - iii. a three court hall, it shall provide a minimum court time of 2 hours on each court
- b) In sections with fewer rubbers, the home team may provide less court time as long as it is sufficient to complete the match.
- c) It is the responsibility of the visiting team to be ready to play at the agreed start time and to cooperate in the efficient use of the available court time.
- d) Matches should finish before midnight and starting times should be adjusted to accommodate this unless the teams agree otherwise beforehand.
- e) No player shall be required to play a match within ten minutes of another.
- f) If a match cannot be played to a conclusion for any reason **each** club must submit a report to the County League Secretary within seven days of the match setting out the relevant circumstances.
 - i. The County League Secretary will then consider the circumstances make such further enquiries as he thinks necessary and determine the result. If one club fails to submit a report the County League secretary may reach a determination based on only one version.
 - ii. Both Clubs will be notified by email of the determination.
 - iii. That determination will be final.
- g) Feathered shuttlecocks of approved regulation pattern shall be used in all league matches.
- h) Score cards must be submitted by both clubs on the League results website, <http://www.salbc.info/online>, within 72 hours of the conclusion of the match.
- i) Players are required to wear clothing appropriate and acceptable to the game of Badminton. If there is any objection to the clothing of any player, the 2 captains will try to reach a settlement. If that is not possible the objecting captain will, before play starts, inform his counterpart that he will report the facts to the County League Secretary and the match result card will be endorsed to this effect. The County League Secretary will determine the issue. Rubbers played by a player in default of this regulation may be declared void and forfeited.
- j) The period for knocking up shall not exceed three minutes.
- k) Suitable refreshments shall be provided by the home team unless the away team is notified otherwise at least 14 days prior to the match.

- l) All matches are to be completed by 30th April unless prior agreement is given by the County League Secretary.
- m) If any result is not received by the County League Secretary by the 10th May, the match shall be deemed not to have been played and therefore ignored in preparing the final league tables.
- n) If a League Match cannot be played because of:
 - i. unforeseen loss of hall/venue, or,
 - ii. severe travel restrictions caused by inclement weather, strikes etc.,
 a match may be cancelled by one of the clubs. In either case costs will be borne equally.
- o) If for any other reason a club is unable to compete in a fixture it shall give as much notice as possible and at least 72 hours to the opposing club and then each club will attempt to rearrange the fixture, the costs of which will be shared. If proper notice is not given, or if the fixture cannot be rearranged, the club referred to above as the opposing club will be awarded the match. There will be no recovery of costs.

7. Players

- a) Every club which shall enter more than one team in any section shall send, in writing, to the Honorary County League Secretary, at least 72 hours before the date fixed for the first tie of any denomination, but in any event not later than 31st October in each year, the names of the players for all teams other than the lowest team in each section and the persons so nominated shall not without the consent of the committee, be eligible to play at any other time during that season for a lower team.
- b) Players representing clubs in the league must be bona fide members and accredited as such.
- c) In addition, no two clubs may enter teams containing the same player if those teams play in the same section.
- d) All nominated players shall play at least two matches for their nominated or a higher team.
- e) The names of all players must be registered on the League results website at least three days before a player becomes eligible to play in any match.

8. Promotion & Relegation

- a) Promotion and relegation shall be automatic, that is to say, the club winning for example, division 3 of any section shall advance to division 2 and the club placed last in division 2 shall be relegated to division 3 and so on.
- b) No club shall have more than two teams in any other division of any section.
- c) In the event of a division winner being ineligible for promotion, the right shall be extended to the highest placed eligible team in the division provided that any such highest placed team shall have won at least 50% of its matches in the division.
- d) If there is a tie for any position at the end of the season the final order of placing in the league tables shall be determined by the quotient obtained by dividing the 'events for' by the 'events against' and should this also be equal, then by dividing the 'points for' by the 'points against'.
- e) Any team conceding without good reason two or more matches in any season will automatically be relegated.

9. Disciplinary Procedures

- a) The League and Essex County Badminton Association expect the highest standards of sportsmanship during league matches.
- b) All complaints should be addressed in the first instance to the League Secretary.
- c) The Secretary will respond with a copy of the full Disciplinary Procedure, and seek confirmation that the complaint is to be made formal.

- d) The person facing the complaint will be informed and offered the chance to respond to the charges against him / her.
- e) The Chair and Secretary of both clubs shall be made aware of the details of the allegations and offered the chance to resolve the issue between the clubs.
- f) Where the League Secretary or an official of either club deems it necessary BADMINTON England's "General Disciplinary Regulations" will then be followed, including the right of Appeal.

10. Dispute Resolution

- a) The County League Committee will determine all cases of dispute arising from these rules and their decision shall be final.