



THE “BIRKENHEAD”, “WALLASEY” and “HOYLAKE” COMPETITION REGULATIONS

1. The competitions shall be played each year as follows:
 - The Birkenhead Handicap (playing for the Advertiser Cup) for teams in the Premier League, and Division 1 of the North and South Leagues.
 - The Wallasey Handicap (playing for the Vera Johnson Trophy) for teams in Divisions 2 and 3 of the South League.
 - The Hoylake Handicap (playing for the Dovepoint Trophy) for teams in Divisions 2 and 3 of the North League.

2. All clubs playing in each of the respective leagues shall automatically qualify to have one entry per team entered in the relevant competition, and the entry fee shall be included in the annual League subscription

3. The competitions shall be played on a knock-out basis, with handicaps assigned at each round of the event. Each pair in a team will play from the allotted handicap, adjusted where relevant in accordance with the official handicap tables printed in the BE Handbook, with no setting allowed.

4. Matches will consist of nine events as follows:
 - Three Men playing three crossover Men’s Doubles (AB, AC, and BC) against their opposite numbers in two games to 21 points. Player A must be the strongest, B the second, and so on.
 - Three Ladies playing three crossover Ladies Doubles (AB, AC, and BC) against their opposite numbers in two games to 21 points. Player A must be the strongest as above.
 - The same players playing a total of three games of Mixed Doubles, each pair playing two games to 21 points. Mixed pairings must be played in order of strength.

5. All players must be registered and eligible to play for the team in the relevant Division at the date of the match. A player can only play for a club in one of the three competitions in any one season (but if eligible can also play for a different club in a different competition).

6. A list of players eligible to play for each team must be provided to the Competition Secretary by a date fixed by the League. Teams will be handicapped based on the names on this list throughout the competition, except the Club may request a deletion where a player becomes ineligible to play in a competition by virtue of playing in another team (see Rule 5).

7. Matches in the first round of the event must be played in the week allotted by the League for these competitions. The date of subsequent fixtures must be agreed between the clubs involved within the time limits set by the League. If a match has to be played by agreement at a neutral venue the court costs should be shared. The Finals will be played on a set date, with court and shuttle costs borne by the League.

8. The order of play in a match shall be mutually agreed by the two team captains, but in the event of non-agreement the order of play shall be Men's AB, Ladies AB, Men's AC, Ladies AC, Men's BC, Ladies BC, Mixed 1, Mixed 2 and Mixed 3. Play shall be continuous and a 21-0 result may be claimed against a player not available when called. Once team sheets have been exchanged no alterations or substitutions shall be permitted.

9. The Home Team Secretary is responsible for arranging the fixture with the opposing team, and for advising the Competition Secretary of the agreed date.

10. Matches must be played with a recognised standard feather shuttle provided by the home team. Shuttle costs shall be shared equally between the competing teams.

11. Matches shall commence no later than five minutes after the official start time for the home club, unless varied by agreement between the teams before the event.

12. Special score sheets will be provided by the League, and must be signed by both captains and returned by the home team to the Competition Secretary to be received within 5 days of the match. Failure to do so may incur a fine of £5.00.

13. The match result shall be determined by the most sets won by a team, and if equal the aggregate points scored by the teams (including handicaps). If still equal the result of the 1st mixed shall decide, and if that is equal sets and points then 2nd mixed, followed if necessary by 3rd mixed.

14. In the event of disputes, the decision of the Finance & General Purposes Sub-Committee shall be final.