



THE WIRRAL BADMINTON LEAGUE

RULES and REGULATIONS

1. CONSTITUTION

1. Name

The League shall be called THE WIRRAL BADMINTON LEAGUE, hereinafter referred to as “the League”

2. Objectives

To provide and promote competitive badminton on a league basis for clubs in Wirral, and to arrange matches, tournaments and other events connected therewith, in accordance with the laws of badminton

3. Membership

3.1. The League shall be open to teams of Clubs affiliated to the Cheshire County Badminton Association (CCBA) and situated in Wirral.

3.2. Application to join must be sent to the League Secretary, in writing, by 15th May and acceptance shall be subject to the decision of the Finance & General Purposes Sub-Committee, who shall also have the power to determine the appropriate League and Division.

3.3. Clubs desirous of withdrawing a team or teams from the League must notify the League Secretary on or before the 15th May each year, otherwise they will be held liable for the following season’s subscription.

3.4. Associate membership may be granted to CCBA affiliated Clubs and Associations in Wirral at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

4. MEETINGS

4.1. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM shall be held by 30th June each year; the business to be transacted shall include:

- Receiving audited accounts for the season
- The election of President and Vice-Presidents, who must retire annually but may be re-elected
- The election of officers
- Receiving annual reports from officers
- The appointment of auditor(s) for the following year
- Consideration of motions for which due notice has been given
- Consideration of any variation to these Rules and Regulations
- Agreement of subscriptions chargeable for the following season

4.2. A copy of the Agenda shall be sent to Club Secretaries not less than 14 days prior to the date of an AGM. Accidental omission to give such notice to a Club shall not invalidate the proceedings of an otherwise properly convened meeting.

4.3. Notices of motions to be presented at the AGM must be sent in writing to the League Secretary at least 28 days before the AGM. Notices which have not been previously agreed at a League Executive Meeting must be supported by at least six named clubs.

4.4. Each League Club Team, together with the President, Vice-Presidents and elected officers, shall be entitled to one vote at an AGM, but any member of a registered Club may attend such meetings and take part in the discussions. A person may only have one vote at the meeting and no proxy voting shall be permitted. The Chairperson shall only vote if other votes result in a tie.

4.5. A quorum for an AGM shall be not less than one half of the maximum number of eligible votes.

4.6. Every motion submitted shall be decided by a majority on a show of hands. Where felt desirable by the AGM Chairperson, or upon a request from a majority of those present, a secret ballot shall be arranged, for which two scrutineers shall be appointed by the Chairperson.

5. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

5.1. An EGM may be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee or on the requisition of not less than one third of the Clubs in full membership. Such a requisition must be sent in writing to the League Secretary and signed by the Clubs concerned, and state the specific reason for which the meeting is being convened. Any motion to be discussed must be incorporated in the notice and no other business shall be transacted.

5.2. An EGM must be held within 30 days of a properly submitted requisition, and at least 14 days notice of the meeting given to officers and member clubs.

5.3. A quorum and voting entitlements at an EGM shall be as for an AGM, except that to be successful any motion at an EGM shall require two-thirds of the votes cast.

6. League Executive Meetings

6.1. The business of the League shall be conducted by an Executive Committee consisting of the President, Vice-Presidents, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Results Secretary, Junior League Representative, CCBA Representative, Competitions Organiser, the 2 elected Club Representatives and one representative from each club in membership. At least twelve members are required to form a quorum.

6.2. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill casual vacancies amongst Officers and members of the Executive Committee and to form any Sub-Committee for specific purposes, and to define their duties.

6.3. A calendar of League Executive Meetings shall be arranged on an annual basis at the first meeting after the AGM. Additional meetings can be convened at the discretion of the elected Officers so long as at least 14 days notice is given.

6.4. Voting at an Executive Committee shall be by show of hands, or a secret ballot if felt necessary by the Chairperson, or requested by a majority of those present. Decisions shall be made according to the votes cast by a majority of those present.

6.5. Fixtures for the subsequent season shall be arranged at a special meeting, which all clubs must attend. Failure to attend, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will incur a fine equal to the annual subscription for each team affected.

7. Finance and General Purpose Sub-Committee

7.1. The Sub-Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-Presidents, the elected officers as listed in paragraph 6.1 above, together with the two elected Club Representatives.

7.2. The Sub-Committee may be convened between meetings of the Executive Committee to deal with urgent business that requires action or decision before the next scheduled Executive meeting, and to agree policy reports to be presented to the League Executive.

7.3. A meeting may be called by the Chairperson, provided a minimum 7 days notice is given to members of the Sub-Committee.

7.4. A quorum consists of a minimum 4 members.

7.5. Minutes of the proceedings of the Sub-Committee shall be circulated at the subsequent Executive Meeting.

8. LEAGUE ORGANISATION

8.1. The League shall consist of a Wirral Premier League (maximum of 9 teams), a Wirral North League and a Wirral South League consisting of Divisions of 9 teams or less. Divisions shall be identified as 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. The composition of the divisions will be agreed at a League Executive Meeting prior to the fixture meeting.

8.2. Each team in a division will play home and away fixtures against other teams in the division. Divisional placings shall be determined by the number of sets won in these fixtures with every set in the match scoring one point for or against each team. Should the total number of sets won be equal, the team with the greater difference in sets won and lost shall be placed higher. In the event of the teams still being equal the greater number of sets won in the matches between the clubs shall determine the higher placing.

8.3. At the end of each season, the leading team in Division 1 of the North & South Leagues shall be promoted to the Premier League. The leading two teams in North & South Divisions 2, 3, 4, etc shall be promoted to the Division above. The bottom two teams in the Premier League Division shall be relegated to Division 1 of the North or South League. The bottom two teams in North & South Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, etc shall be relegated to the Division below.

8.4. The League Executive may, prior to the fixture meeting, decide on the relegation placing of the two Premier clubs and may also vary the composition of the leagues where the above promotion and relegation rules lead to an undesired or unbalanced composition which adversely affects a club or clubs. Also, should the number of teams in Divisions becomes unbalanced due to resignations from the League, the Executive Committee may, prior to the fixture meeting, agree to change the composition of Divisions.

9. Matches

9.1. Teams shall consist of four ladies and four men, each of whom shall contest a straight and a mixed doubles event. Each match shall consist of 4 Mixed, 2 Men's and 2 Ladies Doubles and partnerships must be played in order of strength. Events shall be the best of three games of a minimum twenty-one points, with additional points playable in accordance with the Rally Points Scoring System. A team shall score one point for each set won in the match

9.2. Captains of teams shall simultaneously exchange team sheets and agree the order of play for the match before the commencement of the first event. In the event of disagreement on the order of play, this will be as follows: 1st Men's Doubles followed by 1st Ladies' Doubles or vice-versa; 2nd Men's Doubles followed by 2nd Ladies' Doubles or vice-versa; Mixed Doubles in the order 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

9.3. Play shall be continuous and any player not available when called shall have two games of twenty-one aces scored against him or her in that event. Knocking up time before each event is restricted to two minutes.

9.4. League games shall commence not later than 8.00 p.m. or at such earlier scheduled time stated in the official list of Clubs in the League Handbook. Earliest permitted start time is 7.00 p.m.

9.5. All players must be present at the match venue within fifteen minutes of the scheduled start of play and players who arrive after that time may be disqualified, except that Captains may mutually agree in advance of a match to the late arrival of a player(s), but must agree a time limit. In the event of non-appearance after that agreed time limit the excused player(s) may be disqualified and no substitutions allowed.

In the event of a player(s) not present when required for his/her first event, another eligible player(s) may be substituted in the place of the absent player(s), subject to the approval of both captains.

9.6. Where a player(s) is incapacitated before his/her second event commences, then an eligible reserve substitution(s) shall be allowed in the second event to be played by that player(s) subject to the approval of both Captains. A full report, in writing, of the circumstances necessitating the substitution(s) must be sent to the Results Secretary within 7 days of the match.

9.7. No alteration shall be permitted to a team sheet except for a substitution as permitted in Rules 9.5 or 9.6.

9.8. Unfinished matches and reasons therefore must be reported to the Results Secretary within 7 days of the match.

9.9. Visiting teams shall abide by the practices of the home Club with regard to “lets” and “faults”, provided these are in accordance with the Laws of Badminton. The visitors shall be notified before the commencement of matches of any such circumstances likely to affect play.

9.10. All matches will be played with recognised feathered shuttles. A new shuttle of the same type must be provided at the commencement of each event. The Executive Committee reserves the right to forbid the use of any particular type of shuttle.

9.11. Umpires and scorers may be appointed by mutual consent and their decision shall be binding.

10. Score-sheets

10.1. An official score-sheet shall be completed and signed at the conclusion of the match by both home and visiting Captains and forwarded by the home Club to be received by the Results Secretary within 7 days. Any failure to do so is liable to incur a financial penalty of £5.00.

11. Registrations

11.1. Each Club Secretary shall send a list, in duplicate, of each team’s registered players (in all Wirral Leagues) to the League Results Secretary to arrive not later than the date of the Club’s first match of the season. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £5.00 for each seven day period, or part thereof, following the first match.

Only members of a Club who are paying the full senior or junior subscription and have been registered for a minimum of 24 hours may represent it in a League match. (The 24 hour rule does not apply for the first match – see the preceding paragraph)

Unless the teams are in different League (i.e. North and South), where the club has more than one team the 4 men and 4 ladies representing the highest teams must be identified. Club Secretaries are responsible for notifying players so registered.

11.2. Re-registration of players between teams of the same Club may be made up to 31st January in any season. Players re-registered to a higher team may play immediately for

that team, but players re-registered to a lower team will only be eligible to play at least seven (7) days after playing for the higher team. Rule 11.7 may however apply if the person is a registered Premier Player. Players registered for a higher team cannot play for a lower team unless they re-register.

Player(s) re-registered to a lower team cannot play for a higher team again during that season unless specific permission has been granted by the Finance & General Purposes Sub-Committee for a player to be re-instated. The Results Secretary must be notified, in writing, of the reason for the application for re-registration.

11.3. Additional registrations, including inter-club transfers, may be made at any time up to 31st January and will take effect seven days after receipt of notification by the Results Secretary.

11.4. During any one season a player may play a combined total of three times for higher teams than those for which he or she is registered. If a player plays four times for higher teams, then he/she will automatically be re-registered for the next higher team, and subsequent reinstatement to a lower team is not permitted.

11.5. In the event of a Club having more than one team in the same Division, they shall be numbered 1, 2 etc in order of strength. League matches between teams from the same Club in the same Division must take place up to 31st January of that season.

11.6. No player shall play for more than one Club at the same time in a League (Premier, North or South); although a player may play for another club in a different League, e.g. a player can register and play for a North club and a South club.

11.7. Registered Premier players may play in the North or South Leagues for their Premier club teams or for another club, subject to the following restrictions below. The use of Premier players is restricted to players in the lower half of the higher team, and they should play the top events in any lower team. (This Rule also applies to Clubs with more than 1 team in the Premier Division).

- a) Up to two Premier registered players can play for a team in a match in Division 1 of the North or South Leagues, or for a Clubs lower Premier Team(s), but no more than one man and one lady can be used (i.e. if two are used they must be of different gender).
- b) One Premier registered player can play for a team in a match in Division 2 of the North or South Leagues (i.e. one man or one lady).
- c) No Premier registered player can play in a match below Division 2, whether for his or her Premier club, or any other club.
- d) In the event of a club having two teams in the Premier Division, and a third team in Division 1, then one additional Premier registered lady to that stated in (a) above, can, if necessary, play in a 3rd team match in order to fulfil a fixture. The additional lady must be from that club's 2nd team.

11.8. Requests for transfer from one Club to another shall be in writing, signed by the player and the secretary of both clubs concerned, and sent to the appropriate Results Secretaries.

12. Fixtures

12.1. Matches must be played as appearing in the published League Fixture list. Matches may only be postponed or re-arranged because of non-availability of the hall or exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances do not normally include sickness, injury to players, match clashes with other leagues or social functions.

12.2. Notice must be given to the League Results Secretary by offending team and approval obtained.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, a team not fulfilling a fixture will be penalised by having a maximum of 16 pts deducted from its divisional points total.

12.3. The Home Club's Match Secretary must re-arrange the match with the Away Club's match secretary.

The agreed new date must be confirmed, in writing, by the Home Club to both the opposing Away Club's Match Secretary and the League Results Secretary.

Any extra hall expenses incurred must be met by the offending Club.

The result of the match will be accounted for in the Divisional tables.

12.4. A match shall not be deemed to have been fulfilled unless at least five valid events are played.

13. GENERAL MATTERS

13. Subscriptions

13.1. The Treasurer will recommend for approval the subscriptions for the following season at the Annual General Meeting, in the form of an item on the Agenda. The subscription will include the cost of the League Handbooks and entry into the appropriate League Cup and Trophy competitions.

13.2. Subscriptions must be paid to the League Treasurer by 31st October. Failure to do so will result in a fine of one-half of the annual fees due per team.

14. Equal Opportunity and Child Protection Policies

14.1. In line with the Badminton Association of England guidelines the League has adopted policies with regard to Equal Opportunities and Child Protection that member clubs must be familiar with and observe. The detailed policies are held by the Secretary and copies can be provided upon request.

15. Disputes

15.1. Any disputes arising on any matter connected with the League shall be reported, in writing, to the League Secretary. If the matter affects another club, that club must also be sent a copy of the written complaint, and the second club should submit a written response to the League Secretary within 7 days of receipt of the letter. The League Executive Committee shall consider such disputes and their decision shall be final.

16. Alterations to Rules

16.1. Alterations and additions to these Rules shall only be made at a General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose.

16.2. Written notice of any proposed alterations or additions to the Rules at the Annual General Meeting must be given to the Honorary League Secretary not later than 28 days prior to the AGM.

16.3. No alteration or addition to the Rules shall be adopted unless a majority of those present and entitled to vote shall vote in favour of such alteration or addition at an AGM, or two-thirds at an EGM.

17. League Executive Powers

17.1. The League Executive Committee shall be the sole interpreter of the Rules, and has the power to impose penalties for contravention or any action by Club or an individual that is considered contrary to the best interest of the game, and the decision shall be final.

17.2. In the event of any question arising which is not provided for in the foregoing Rules it shall be dealt with nevertheless by the League Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final.

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.

BADMINTON IN WIRRAL

The Wirral Badminton League was formed for the 2004/05 season by an amalgamation of the three existing Leagues in Wirral – the Birkenhead, Hoylake and Wallasey Leagues. The move was considered necessary due to the declining number of teams still playing – in season 2003/04 the number of Divisions/Teams in those leagues was Birkenhead 4/28, Hoylake 3/20, and Wallasey 2/11. These contrast with figures of 7/54, 8/64 and 4/33 respectively at the height of the game's popularity 20 years previously. In its first season the Wirral League commenced with 7 Divisions and 55 teams. In 2016/17 season the totals were 5 and 43 respectively.

Whilst the amalgamation was probably inevitable it was sad to see the original leagues winding up after providing competitive badminton to so many players over the years. All the leagues had been in existence for over 50 years – indeed the Wallasey League was originally founded in 1926, and re-started after the war in 1948. The Birkenhead League was formed in 1946 and the Hoylake League in 1948, we hope the Wirral League is also still going strong after 50 years.