

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

1. 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. The object of the league is to encourage and promote competitive badminton by providing a framework for club league matches
 3.
 - a) The league shall be organised by the County League Secretary.
 - b) The County League Secretary shall be appointed annually by the County AGM. Casual vacancies may be filled by the Management Committee of the Essex County Badminton Association.
 - c) Changes to these regulations are subject to the approval of that Management Committee.
 - d) Clubs participating in the leagues shall appoint from among their number up to 3 persons in total to:
 - i) assist the League Secretary by working with him and providing oversight,
 - ii) represent the views of participating clubs and players,
 - iii) ensure that the Rules governing the Leagues are applied consistently, and that disputes are dealt with quickly and resolved fairly,
- and accordingly, where, in these Regulations, there is mention of "The County League Secretary", that shall include, where appropriate, this working group.
4.
 - 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) Feathered shuttlecocks of approved regulation pattern shall be used in all league matches.
 - d) Match Secretaries of clubs entering the league will meet before 15 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.

e) By 15 October each year every competing club shall prepare a fixture list showing the start time, date, venue, and Match Secretary's contact details and opponents and shall send a copy to:

i) the County League Secretary and

ii) each opposing team with directions to the venue.

f) If, subsequently, the clubs agree any amendments to fixtures, each club shall notify in writing the County League Secretary within 48 hours.

g) 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.

h) 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.

5. 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 (eg 6 or 4 or some other number) and the format of the competition (eg 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

h) 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.

6. a) 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. 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.

b) Both Clubs will be notified by email of the determination. That determination will be final.

c) Clubs playing in:

i) a one court hall shall provide a minimum court time of 5.5 hours

ii) a two court hall shall provide a minimum court time of 3.5 hours on each court

iii) a three court hall shall provide a minimum court time of 3 hours on each court

unless mutually agreed otherwise. Matches should finish before midnight and starting times should be adjusted to accommodate this unless the teams agree otherwise beforehand.

d) No player shall be required to play a match within ten minutes of another.

e) Score cards must be submitted by both clubs on the League results website, www.salbc.info/online, within 72 hours of the conclusion of the match.

f) 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.

g) The period for knocking up shall not exceed three minutes.

h) Suitable refreshments shall be provided by the home team unless the away team is notified otherwise at least 14 days prior to the match.

i) All matches are to be completed by 30th April unless prior agreement is given by the County League Secretary.

7. 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.

8. 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. Players representing clubs in the league must be bona fide members and accredited as such.

b) In addition, no player shall play in any section for more than one club.

c) All nominated players shall play at least two matches for their nominated or a higher team.

d) The name 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.

9. a) Promotion and relegation shall be automatic, that is to say, that the club winning the most matches, for example, in division 3 of any section shall advance to division 2 and the club losing most matches 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) The County League Secretary may allow a club to have more than two teams in the bottom division of any section.

e) 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.

10. a) If there is a tie for any position in the end of 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'.

b) Any team conceding two or more matches in any season will automatically be relegated.

11. a) The County League Secretary will determine all cases of dispute and his decision shall be final.

AUGUST 2011