

1. Name

The competition shall be called the Gloucestershire Badminton League (hereinafter called the League) and shall be played for annually under the laws of Badminton published by the Badminton World Federation and in accordance with these rules.

2. Object

The object of these rules is to enable sportsmen and sportswomen to enter into friendly competition with one another in as fair and mutually convenient a manner as possible in the spirit of true sportsmanship.

3. Membership

- a. Membership of the League shall be open to all clubs affiliated to the Gloucestershire Badminton Association ("Badminton Gloucestershire") in accordance with rule 4b. Clubs affiliated to a county bordering Gloucestershire may be invited to join at the discretion of the league committee.
- b. The League Committee shall have absolute discretion to refuse membership.
- c. Application for membership of the League shall be made to the Match and Fixture Secretary of the League Committee on the prescribed form and not later than July 31st prior to commencement of the forthcoming season.
- d. Late applications for membership of the League can be approved by the Match and Fixture Secretary providing there is a suitable place and the club can arrange matches with the other teams in the division they are placed. These fixtures cannot be published under Rule 9a.
- e. Member clubs and players are responsible for Third Party and Personal Injury Insurance.

4. Registration Fee

- a. A registration fee for membership of the League payable in respect of each team accepted to play in the League shall be agreed upon at the Annual General Meeting of the League and paid with the application for membership. This registration fee is doubled for entries received after 1 August. (See rule 3c).
- b. Member clubs shall affiliate to their county association all players who play three or more times in total for the club in the League. All players must be covered by a suitable Public Liability Insurance policy. One possible source of such insurance is for players and clubs to affiliate to Badminton England.

5. General Meeting and Accounts

- a. Two weeks notice in writing of the Annual General Meeting (which shall be held during September) must be sent to the first and second contacts of all clubs playing in the League and to all members of the League Committee.
- b. The audited accounts of the League shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting and shall be made up to the previous 1 March.
- c. The accounts shall be audited by a member of a club belonging to the League or by some other person such as Hon. Auditor appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
- d. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened either within thirty days of the receipt of a written request from not less than 25% of all clubs belonging to the League OR by the League Committee.
- e. The quorum for General Meetings shall be the representation of two-thirds of member clubs.
- f. General Meeting decisions shall be reached by a two-thirds majority.

6. Management

- a. The Annual General Meeting shall elect the following officers: - President; Vice-Presidents(s); Chairman; Vice-Chairman; General Secretary; Fixture and Match Secretary; Treasurer; eight other members and an Auditor.
- b. All members of the League Committee shall serve for one year but shall be eligible for re-election.
- c. The President and Vice-President(s) shall be full members of the Committee.
- d. The Annual General Meeting shall also appoint a representative to serve on the Council of the Gloucestershire Badminton Association for the ensuing year and such representative shall be a member of the League Committee.
- e. The League Committee may appoint sub-committees to deal with matters affecting the League which may arise from time to time.
- f. There shall be a minimum of three Committee meetings per year
- g. Committee decisions shall be reached by simple majority.
- h. The League Committee shall have full powers to decide upon any points and disputes not covered by these rules and their decision shall be final.
- i. The League Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to two other persons if deemed necessary on to the Committee.
- j. The quorum for a League Committee meeting shall be five members.

7. Voting

- a. All members of clubs belonging to the League shall be entitled to attend the General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of the League, but only one specified representative from each club shall be entitled to vote.
- b. The Chairman shall have a second or casting vote at all meetings.

8. Composition of the League

- a. The League shall be divided into divisions and each club shall play the remainder of the clubs in their division, both at home and away. The League Committee shall have absolute discretion in arranging such divisions.
- b. The number of divisions shall be decided annually by the League Committee at a Committee Meeting to be held prior to the pre-season meeting of the League.
- c. New clubs or clubs re-joining the League shall be placed in divisions at the discretion of the League Committee, subject to vacancies occurring.

9. Fixtures

- a. Prior to the pre-season meeting, the League Committee shall draft a schedule of fixtures to be played by each team in each Division. This schedule of matches shall be finalised at a fixtures meeting following the Annual General Meeting and all fixtures must be submitted to the league prior to matches commencing and no later than 25 September. All matches must be played on the set date, non-availability of playing facilities being the only valid reason to postpone. Any changes to this fixture list i.e. postponement or rearrangements must be agreed by both clubs concerned. If both clubs agree to a rearrangement of a fixture, both clubs must update the fixture schedule on the league website. The clubs then have 21 days to agree a date. Having agreed a date both clubs must again update the website with the new date. If no date is available or no date can be agreed upon and the reason for the rearrangement can be demonstrated to be a loss of venue, then the home team will not suffer concession penalty, but instead the overall result will be determined by Committee / Match and Fixture Secretary. If the requested team is not willing to rearrange the scheduled fixture, the requesting team has to play that date or concede the match, resulting in penalty in Rule 9 (I) being implemented. As long as dates have been offered, but no date agreed this again will result in the team requesting the rearrangement, as long as it does involve loss of venue, conceding the match and the resulting penalty in Rule 9 (I) being implemented. The League Committee will have powers to decide upon disputes to award points
- b. Cork based shuttlecocks shall be used for all League matches. Mixed teams are made up of three men and three ladies and the match comprises 5 mixed doubles games, 2 mens doubles games and 2 ladies doubles games, a game being the best of three rubbers. A point is awarded for each game won. Setting is allowed. Ladies and Mens teams are made up of four players and the match comprises 6 doubles games. Each game comprises of two rubbers. A point is awarded for each rubber won. Setting is allowed. The order of play is on the scorecard in each case.
- c. Pairings and playing order must, without exception, be exchanged simultaneously by the captains before commencement of play.
- d. In the event of Clubs entering more than one team in the League, a maximum of two teams from those Clubs may play in the same division. In these circumstances the fixtures shall be arranged so that they play each other in the first match of the season and again as the final match of the year or the first match of the new year.
- e. A club entering two or more teams in the League shall nominate the players for all teams entered except for the lowest ranked team. All nominated players must play in two out of the first three matches of the club for the team for which they have been nominated.

- f. All players not nominated shall be deemed to be nominated in that clubs' lowest team. A player nominated for a lower team may play in total three times in the mixed league, and three times in the ladies/mens league, for higher teams of that club. Any player playing four times in total for higher mixed teams, or four times in total for higher ladies/mens teams, will automatically become nominated for the next higher team for which the player has played. Previous appearances for higher teams will count towards further application of this rule.
- g. All nominations must be in writing and submitted on the league website prior to that club's first fixture in any division or at the latest by 30 September. A five point penalty will be applied to a team for matches played prior to their club submitting a nomination form. This penalty will continue to be applied for each fixture until the nomination form is received.
- h. No player shall play for more than one club in the mixed league or for more than one club in the ladies or mens league during the season unless prior sanction has been given by the League Committee whose decision shall be final. A lady or man playing for a club in the mixed league may play for a different club in the ladies or mens league.
- i. Games may be shortened to one rubber of thirty points in order to complete a match.
- j. The result of all matches shall be entered on scorecards provided on the league website and shall be submitted on the website or e-mailed to the Match and Fixture Secretary by the home team within five days of the fixture. Failure to do so may result in the home team losing one point for each whole week by which the score card is delayed. Incorrect completion of the score card may also result in the home team losing one point. If circumstances warrant further penalty, the League Committee will be allowed to deduct further points.
- k. The aggregate total of points awarded in accordance with Rule 9b shall determine the final position of each team in every division of the League.
- l. In the event of a conceded match, the defaulting team will incur a penalty of five points in the mixed league, seven points in the ladies and mens league. The non-defaulting team will receive points for the match at the end of the season. The points awarded will be the average of the home or away scores, dependant on which it was, attained by all the other teams in that division against the defaulting team.
- m. In the event of teams having equal points in a division, the placing of such teams in a division shall be determined by:
 - (i) Matches won, which proving indecisive,
 - (ii) Matches won plus matches drawn, which proving indecisive,
 - (iii) Results of the matches between the teams which have equal points, which proving indecisive,
 - (iv) In the mixed league, rubbers aggregate, and in the ladies / mens league, games aggregate, which proving indecisive,
 - (v) The drawing of lots.

10. Promotion and Relegation

At the conclusion of the competition when the positions of teams within divisions have been sorted using rule 9m, the top team in each division will be promoted and the bottom team will be relegated

- a. The League Committee shall have the right to advance any winning team not more than two divisions and shall likewise have the right to downgrade any bottom team not more than two divisions if it deems fit.
- b. In determining the bottom team under rule 10a, the Committee shall include all clubs in the fixture list and accepted under rule 3d.
- c. The League Committee shall also have the discretion to promote a further team, or to relegate a further team, if, in the opinion of the Committee, the performance of either team merits it being moved to another division.
- d. If having implemented the promotion and relegation rules, there are vacancies in a division, then all teams below that level of division, including relegated teams from that same level shall be considered to fill any such vacancy.

11. Alteration to the rules

- a. An amendment to these rules may be proposed:
 - (i) By any club and such amendment must be seconded by another club,
 - or (ii) By the League Committee,
 - or (iii) Subject to Rule 11e.
- b. In the case of (i) above the proposed amendment shall be sent in writing to the General Secretary of the League Committee to be received before the first day of June.
- c. In either case, the proposed amendment shall be sent in writing to the secretaries of all clubs with the notice of a General Meeting of the League.
- d. Any such proposed amendment shall be subject to the approval of a General Meeting of the League and shall operate from a date set at that meeting. A simple majority is required for setting the start date.
- e. The Chairman shall have discretion to accept proposals regarding the League resulting from discussion under Any Other Business at General Meetings.

12. Electronic Communication

Throughout these rules references to "in writing" or any similar requirements shall be deemed to be satisfied if an e-mail is received by the Match and Fixture Secretary with an appropriate date stamp. Communication with clubs will normally be by electronic means but may, at the discretion of the committee, be by post.