

1 Name

- 1.1 The Association shall be called 'The Chester & District Badminton League' (the League).

2 Membership

- 2.1 The League shall be open to one or more teams of Clubs situated within a radius of fifteen miles of Chester Cross or at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- 2.2 Such Clubs must be affiliated by subscription to Badminton England or Badminton Wales and to the County Organisation in whichever County they are resident. Club registrations must be completed by 31 October. After this date a club will forfeit any games won in matches played whilst that club is unregistered.
- 2.3 Applications and resignations must be submitted to the League Secretary on or before the 1st June.

3 Executive Committee

- 3.1 The business of the League shall be conducted by an Executive Committee consisting of the President, Past Presidents, Vice Presidents (who shall be non-voting) and the Officers of the League, who shall be elected at each AGM, together with one elected representative from each team, eleven to form a quorum. In the absence of an elected representative another member may attend.
- 3.2 The Officers of the League are the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Secretary, Match Secretary, two Reps. to the County, Website Manager, Presentation Night Organiser and Development Officer.
- 3.3 The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint any Sub-Committee for specific purposes and to define their duties. The Chairman, Secretary and Match Secretary shall ex-officio be members of such sub-committees. These will include the Tournament Committee and Disputes Committee, both of whose membership will be agreed at the Fixture Meeting.

4 Meetings

- 4.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held in the month of May each year, when the annual accounts shall be submitted and General Business transacted.
- 4.2 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee or on the requisition of not less than one fifth of the Clubs in membership, each requisition to be sent in writing, to the League Secretary and signed by the Clubs concerned.
- 4.3 A copy of the Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club Secretary not less than seven days prior to the date of the AGM or EGM.
- 4.4 Alterations and additions to the League rules shall only be made at an AGM or EGM if 21 days notice in writing is given to the Secretary. The proposed alterations shall be included in the Agenda and circulated to Club Secretaries not less than 7 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 4.5 Each team representative together with the Officers of the League shall be entitled to vote at the AGM or EGM. In the event of a vote being tied the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

- 4.6 The season's fixtures shall be arranged at a special Fixture Meeting to be called for that purpose.
- 4.7 Any Club not represented at the League Fixture Meeting will, at the discretion of the Officers of the League, be debarred from participating in the League for the ensuing season.

5 League Organisation

- 5.1 The League shall be composed of mixed divisions known as the Mixed League, men's divisions known as the George Williams Men's League and ladies divisions known as the Ladies League. The number of teams in each division to be agreed by the Executive Committee.
- 5.2 Clubs wishing to withdraw a team or teams from the League subsequent to the Fixture Meeting or during the season will be required to withdraw the lower or lowest ranked team/s.
- 5.3 Mixed League teams shall consist of four ladies and four men. Men's League teams shall consist of four men. Ladies League teams shall consist of four ladies. Each team in a division will play home and away fixtures against other teams in the division. Each team shall score 1 point for each game won in a match.
- 5.4 The teams which have scored the highest number of points throughout the season shall hold the championship of their respective division. If points are equal then the team with the greatest difference between total games won and games lost shall be placed higher. If there is still a tie then the winning team shall be decided as that having the greatest sum of rally points scored.
- 5.5 The bottom 2 teams in mixed Division 1 will be relegated to Division 2 and the top 2 teams in Division 2 will be promoted to Division 1. This pattern of promotion and relegation will be repeated throughout the remaining divisions, subject to any amendments within the authority of the Match Secretary as a result of resignations and applications. This same pattern of promotion and relegation will also apply to the men's and ladies leagues.
- 5.6 Matches involving 2 teams from the same club in the same division must be completed by 31st December.
- 5.7 The League and all fixtures made for the League Championship take priority over all other events. All League matches must be completed two weeks prior to the League Presentation Evening.
- 5.8 All League and tournament trophies to be returned to the Secretary by the 31st March.

6 Team Registration

- 6.1 Players may be registered for two clubs simultaneously for the purpose of playing in the Mixed League for one club and the Men's or Ladies League for a second club. Registration of the player(s) will be undertaken by both clubs and it is the responsibility of the player to ensure that the requisite subscriptions are paid.
- 6.2 Only bona fide members of a Club, who are liable for its full subscription and have been registered seven days with Badminton England or Badminton Wales and the league, may represent it in a League match. Each Club Secretary shall send a list of all team players to the Match Secretary on or before 30th September or 7 days before the Club's first league match, whichever is earlier. These lists may be amended at any time up to the 1st March of that season, but the players shall not be eligible to play in League matches until seven days from the date of their registration.

- 6.3 Any man can be registered to play in both the mixed and men's leagues and any lady can play in both the mixed and ladies leagues but clubs are encouraged to share match play amongst all their members where possible.
- 6.4 Clubs having more than one mixed team must register their eight strongest players (four men and four ladies) as its "A" team. Clubs having more than two mixed teams must register their next strongest eight players (four men and four ladies) as its "B" team and so forth.
- 6.5 Clubs having more than one men's/ladies team must register their four strongest players as its M1/L1 team. Clubs having more than two men's/ladies teams must register their next strongest four players as its M2/L2 team and so forth.
- 6.6 No members of a higher team may play for a lower team unless registered seven days before the match. A player remains registered in his/her present position until the new registration date takes effect which is seven days. A Club must at all times have the correct number of bone fide players registered in all teams. A player is no longer considered a bona fide team member if he/she misses four consecutive matches without the permission of the Match Secretary.
- 6.7 In the event of a dispute where a player is registered for two different clubs in the Mixed and Men's/Ladies Leagues, the Mixed League shall take precedence.

7 Matches

- 7.1 Each mixed match shall consist of 8 events (4 mixed, 2 men's and 2 ladies doubles). It is not necessary for the best two players in a team to play together, but the pairs must be arranged in order of strength. Events shall be the best of three games played in accordance with the Rally Points Scoring System.
- 7.2 Each men's or ladies match shall consist of 6 events. Players must be in order of strength (strongest player A then B, C, D). The format will be AB v AB, CD v CD, AC v AC, BD v BD, AD v BC & BC v AD (note that the last 2 sets are such so that everyone gets a set where they are not playing against the same player every game).
- 7.3 For Clubs with more than one team, if more than one match is arranged for the same night the higher registered team must take precedence. Teams must be played in order of strength, i.e. the higher team must take its reserves from the lower team in that division in the first instance. The lower team should then take their reserves from lower teams and so on.
- 7.4 The time of commencing matches shall be as stated on the league website. It is the responsibility of the home team to contact the visiting team at least 48 hours prior to the match in order to arrange a different starting time should this be necessary and which would enable the match to be played to a finish. Any player arriving half an hour after the time stated shall forfeit 2 events 21-0 (mixed match) or 3 events 21-0 (men's/ladies match), unless a different time has been previously mutually agreed.
- 7.5 Unfinished events in matches which have started at the correct time may, by mutual consent, be completed at a later date. Confirmation of conceded or claimed matches must be notified by both teams in writing to the Match Secretary. All other undecided matches will be reported to the Executive Committee for their own attention.

- 7.6 Bye-laws of Clubs regarding "lets" and "faults" in League and Trophy matches shall be approved by the League. Visiting teams shall abide by the above bye-laws and shall be notified before the commencement of matches of the above bye-laws.
- 7.7 All teams shall play their matches with an approved brand feathered shuttle. Approved brands of shuttle will be specified at the AGM of the League.
- 7.8 Scorers shall be appointed by mutual consent. Their duties shall be to announce the score and also, if requested to do so by the players, to call faults and lets.

8 Score Sheets

- 8.1 Home and visiting captains shall be responsible for filling in League approved score sheets which will be jointly signed by the match captains.
- 8.2 Before the beginning of a match captains shall simultaneously exchange score sheets, on which the players' names have been entered, and no alteration shall be made during the course of the match.
- 8.3 Captains are required to indicate on the score sheet any reserves playing, by adding a letter "R" after their name. A report of the substitution is also required on the score sheet which should include the name of the player missing and the number of consecutive matches missed.
- 8.4 The home team captain shall forward a copy of the completed score sheet to the Match Secretary.
- 8.5 All score sheets must be received by the Match Secretary within **5** days of the match being played. If the score sheet is not received within **5** days of the match, the relevant team shall receive a £5 penalty. This will escalate for further offences up to £15.
- 8.6 The home team shall be responsible for entering the match result onto the League website within **5** days of the match being played.

9 Fixture Rearrangements

- 9.1 Matches may be rearranged due to unavailability of the hall or inclement weather which is likely to affect the majority of players travelling to and from a fixture. This is provided that both clubs involved are in agreement and the Match Secretary has authorised the rearrangement and considers the application for rearrangement to be legitimate. Details of the rearranged date must be notified to the Match Secretary within two weeks.
- 9.2 In addition the Match Secretary may, in exceptional circumstances, authorise the rearrangement of a match for reasons not covered in 9.1 provided both Clubs involved are in agreement and the Match Secretary considers the application for rearrangement to be legitimate. Application for such rearrangements must reach the Match Secretary not less than 48 hours before the match was due to be played and his/her decision shall be final in all cases. Details of the rearranged date must be notified to the Match Secretary within two weeks. The Match Secretary will prioritise rearrangements for single team clubs and last teams of multi-team clubs
- 9.3 Any match which is rearranged without the Match Secretary's permission will be considered void. Teams unable to fulfil a fixture on the scheduled date or on an agreed rearranged date will have two points deducted. In the event that a mixed team cannot play on the rearranged date with a full team, then the minimum requirement to fulfil this fixture will be 2 men and 2 ladies.

9.4 If a fixture is postponed by the away team, and a new date is agreed by both clubs and the home team has to hire the hall specifically to play the rearranged fixture, which is subsequently cancelled by the away team for a second time, any cost that the home team has incurred in trying to complete the fixture is to be paid in full by the away team.

9.5 Rearranged matches should be played by 31st March; only in exceptional circumstances, and with the agreement of the Match Secretary, should rearranged fixtures be scheduled for April in which case they must be completed two weeks prior to the League Presentation Evening.

10 Disputes

10.1 Any Club wishing to make a complaint or claim against another Club shall first notify their opponents within one week of the fixture and then BOTH parties will send a written letter to the Match Secretary within a further week.

10.2 The Disputes Committee will convene a meeting within one month of the fixture at which both parties will be represented, together with three members of the Disputes Committee. The Disputes Committee's decision, which shall be final, will be reported to the next Executive Meeting.

10.3 Should either party not submit a written letter, or fail to attend the arranged meeting, they will be considered to have defaulted from the disputes process and the decision will automatically be awarded against them.

11 Subscriptions (waived for the 2024-25 season)

11.1 An annual subscription shall be payable in respect of each team entered in the League. A player registration fee shall be payable in respect of each player registered to play in the League.

11.2 Subscriptions, player registration fees and entry fees to be determined at the AGM of the League. Details of all subscriptions, player registration fees and entry fees to be forwarded to the Match Secretary on or before 30th September or 7 days before the Club's first league match, whichever is earlier, together with the appropriate remittance. IT IS TO BE REMEMBERED THAT NO REGISTRATION WILL TAKE EFFECT UNTIL THE CORRECT FEES HAVE BEEN PAID. Failure to comply with this rule in its entirety could result in the suspension of all benefits of membership of the League.

12 Child Protection Policies

12.1 Those clubs affiliated to the League and who also affiliate to Cheshire County Badminton Association agree to abide by the Child Protection Policy as detailed in the Appendices below.

12.2 All League Clubs not affiliated to Cheshire County Badminton Association must abide by the Child Protection Policy of the County Organisation in whichever County they are resident.

12.3 The League recognises the need to have all volunteers and coaches associated with Juniors registered with the Disclosure and Barring Service.

13 Miscellaneous

13.1 It is expected that all teams will make every endeavour to comply with both the letter and the spirit of the foregoing rules.

- 13.2 Clubs failing to comply with any of the foregoing rules shall be liable to forfeit one or more points as the Executive Committee may decide.
- 13.3 In the event of any question arising not provided for in the foregoing rules it shall be dealt with by the Executive Committee, who shall be the sole interpreters of the rules and whose decision shall be final.
- 13.4 The Executive Committee shall have the authority to waive a rule in exceptional circumstances and when they consider that it would be in the best interest of the League to do so.
- 13.5 If, upon winding up or dissolution of the League, there remains after satisfaction of all the League's debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be distributed among the members of the League, but shall be given or transferred to some other body or bodies, institutions, having objects similar, wholly or partially, to the objects of the League. Such body or bodies, institution or institutions, to be determined by a simple majority of the members of the league at or before the time of dissolution and, in so far as effect cannot be given to the aforesaid provision, then to some charitable object.

APPENDICES

FEES (waived for the 2024-25 Season)

SHUTTLES

Approved brands of feather shuttles:

Ashaway Red, RSL, Yonex, Yehlex, Swift, New Magnum & Victor

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Chester & District Badminton League (CDBL) agrees to adopt BADMINTON ENGLAND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY and Implementation Procedures.

All individuals at all levels involved in Badminton through CDBL and affiliated to CCBA must abide by Badminton England's Child Protection Policy and the Code of Ethics and Conduct (the Code) and all individuals, by participating or being involved in badminton through CDBL and affiliated to CCBA are deemed to have assented to and thereby adhere to the principles and responsibilities embodied in these documents.

Each and every constituent member of CDBL including, without limitation, all clubs affiliated to CCBA shall be responsible for the implementation of the Child Protection Policy and procedures in badminton in relation to their individual members.

Any act, statement or other behaviour that harms a child or group of children or poses a risk of harm to a child, or group of children shall constitute conduct that is improper and therefore brings Badminton into disrepute. Such conduct will be dealt with at the appropriate level, through the Disciplinary Procedure.

All CDBL Clubs not affiliated to CCBA must abide by the Child Protection Policy of the County Organisation in whichever County they are resident.

COLIN COPPING TROPHY

To honour the memory of, and contribution made by, the late Colin Copping to the league as former long-serving League Match Secretary, the Colin Copping Trophy is awarded to an individual who has made a significant contribution to their club, the league or both.

Nominations from registered clubs or individuals should be sent to the League Secretary to arrive no later than 4 weeks before the presentation night. These nominations will be judged by the officers of the league and the award presented at the presentation night. (In the event of an officer of the league being nominated they will stand down from the judging.)