

1 Name

- 1.1 The League shall be called 'The Chester & District Badminton 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 Committees & Sub-Committees

- 3.1 The management of the league shall be undertaken by the Executive Committee consisting of the League Officials namely the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Match Secretary, Treasurer, a Rep to the County, Presentation Night Organiser, Website Manager and Development Officer.
- 3.2 The general business of the league shall be agreed at meetings of the General Committee which consists of the Executive Committee together with one representative from each team, eleven to form a quorum.
- 3.3 The Executive Committee shall appoint any sub-committee required for specific purposes and define their duties. The Chairman, Secretary and Match Secretary shall ex-officio be members of such sub-committees including the Disputes committee.
- 3.4 If there are no volunteers the role of Chairperson will be allocated to a club for a period on one year. This allocation will be random, a name 'drawn from a hat'. The role of Vice Chairperson will also 'drawn from a hat'. After the one year the Vice Chair will move to the Chair position and, at the AGM, the remaining clubs that have not been selected go into a 'hat' to see who becomes the next Vice Chair. This will continue year on year. If a club leaves the league to avoid their responsibilities but then, at a subsequent date, asks to be included again they will automatically take on the role they avoided before leaving. If a club refuses to do the role they will no longer be allowed to play in the league.

4 Meetings

- 4.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held in May/Jun each year, when the annual accounts shall be submitted and the League Officials elected.
- 4.2 The General Committee shall meet no less than twice a year (at the AGM and at least one other meeting).
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 Alterations and additions to the League rules shall only be made at an AGM or EGM.
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- 4.5 A copy of the agenda, including any proposed alterations to the rules, shall be forwarded to each Club Secretary not less than seven days prior to the date of the AGM or EGM.
 - 4.6 Although all league members are welcome to attend, only members of the General Committee (league officials plus each team representative) 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.
 - 4.7 The season's fixtures shall be arranged at the Fixture Meeting.
 - 4.8 Any Club not represented at the Fixture Meeting will, at the discretion of the Executive Committee 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 unless there are 6 or fewer teams in the divisions in which case the decision as to whether only 1 team will be promoted/relegated instead of 2 will be made at the fixture meeting.
- 5.6 Matches involving 2 teams from the same club in the same division must be completed by 31st December.
- 5.7 All matches must be completed two weeks prior to the League Presentation Evening.
- 5.8 All trophies to be returned to the Executive Committee 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.

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- 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 with 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 31st January 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 bona 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. Players are limited to the number of times they can play up for a higher team during a season. The number of times will be decided at the fixture meeting.
- 6.7 For clubs with more than one mixed, men's and/or ladies team, reserves eligible for higher ranked teams only, due to their strength, should be identified as such on the team registration form.
- 6.8 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 strongest 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 the first instance. That lower team should then take their reserves from lower teams and so on. The lowest team should take players from the registered reserves. No players can play in more than one match, within the Chester & District League or any other league, on the same night.

- 7.4 Matches may not be conceded without the permission of the Executive Committee (via the Match Secretary) and could incur a points penalty.
- 7.5 In the event that a team cannot field a full team, then the minimum requirement to fulfil as fixture will be 2 men & 2 ladies for a mixed team and 3 men or 3 ladies for men's/ladies teams.
- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 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 events must be notified by both teams in writing to the Match Secretary.
- 7.8 Before the commencement of the match the home team shall describe what constitutes 'lets' and 'faults' in the home venue and the visiting team shall abide by this.
- 7.9 All teams shall play their matches with an approved brand feathered shuttle. Approved brands of shuttle will be agreed at the AGM.
- 7.10 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 Both the home and visiting team captains 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 should only 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 the Match Secretary has first authorised the rearrangement and that both clubs involved are in agreement.

- 9.2 However, in exceptional circumstances, the rearrangement of a match for reasons not covered in 9.1 may be authorised provided that the Match Secretary considers the application for rearrangement to be legitimate and both clubs involved are in agreement.
- 9.3 Details of the rearranged date must be notified to the Match Secretary within two weeks.
- 9.4 Any match which is rearranged without the Match Secretary's permission will be considered void (i.e. the result will be recorded as 0:0).
- 9.5 Rearranged matches must be completed two weeks prior to the League Presentation Evening.
- 9.6 If a fixture is legitimately rearranged at the request of 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 not fulfilled by the away team, any cost that the home team has incurred in trying to complete the fixture is to be paid in full by the away team.

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 statement 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 statement, 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

- 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. All fees shall be agreed at the AGM.
- 11.2 Fees can be paid either by cheque with the team registration form (see rule 6.2) or by bank transfer to the league treasurer. IT IS TO BE REMEMBERED THAT NO REGISTRATION WILL TAKE EFFECT UNTIL THE CORRECT FEES HAVE BEEN PAID.

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 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

Annual subscription £10 per team

Individual player registration fees waived for 2026-27

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 Safeguarding & Protecting Children and Young People Policy and Implementation Procedures.

All individuals at all levels involved in Badminton through CDBL and affiliated to CCBA must abide by Badminton England's Safeguarding & Protecting Children and Young People Policy and the Code of Ethics and Behaviour (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 Safeguarding & Protecting Children and Young People 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 relevant Code of Behaviour and Safeguarding & 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. 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.)