

NORTH FORELAND REGIONAL BADMINTON ASSOCIATION



RULES for SENIOR INTER-CLUB COMPETITIONS

1. COMPETITIONS

Competitions/leagues are held annually in various formats such as Mixed, Mens and Ladies Doubles (Junior Rules are described elsewhere). A fee fixed at the previous Annual General Meeting (AGM) must be paid for each team entered in the Competitions. All Competitions shall be played in accordance with Kent Badminton (KBL) Rules and with Laws and Regulations for the time being sanctioned by Badminton England (BE), so far as these are applicable to these Competitions, except where specifically stated in the Rules.

All clubs must register with BE each season before any play to ensure that the club and its players have cover for public and legal liability.

Each team in a 'traditional' format match consists of three pairs, each of which will play the three opposing pairs. In other formats such as composite specified pairs in one team play the equivalent pair of opponents; such formats require the players participating to be ranked in order of strength – so that the strongest players play each other etc.

Coaching in matches may only take place in the changeover between games.

2. DIVISIONS

Each competition shall be divided into a number of divisions, each division having a maximum of 9 (nine) teams. For the existing teams of clubs affiliated to the Region, entry to any division shall usually be by the normal process of promotion and relegation. New teams wishing to enter the leagues must provide a fair indication of their playing strength so that they may be correctly placed.

3. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

Two match points will be awarded for each win and 1 for a draw. In exceptional circumstances points may be awarded by the Committee. The team in each division which has the greatest number of match points will be the winner. They and the runners-up will usually be promoted to the next highest division. The two teams having gained the least match points will usually be relegated to the next lower division. Where two teams have an equal number of match points the winners/losers will then be decided by the percentage of rubbers or if then equal by percentage of games and then by aces. These norms may be varied by the Committee.

To encourage clubs to field full teams, where a team has no players missing it will be awarded an extra point. So, in most matches, the points received will be 3-1 rather than 2-0.

4. QUALIFICATIONS

Clubs wishing to take part in the Region's competitions shall register all playing members with the Regional Match Secretary by the 1st November following the start of the season. Any player joining a club after that date shall not be eligible to play in any competition until they have been registered with the Region as a member of that club. All players participating in NFRBA events must be affiliated to KBL and BE. No league fixture can take place until both clubs have submitted their initial BE player affiliation documents. Proof of this and all later updates must be provided to the Regional Match Secretary. In the event of a club playing an unregistered player after 1st November the rubbers involving that player will be declared void.

A player so qualified may play only for one, but not necessarily the same, club in each of the various competitions during any one season.

Pairs of ladies may play as part of a team in the mens league (to provide them with stronger opposition than that in the ladies league).

5. NOMINATION OF TEAMS

Any club entering two teams in any league format shall send to the Regional Match Secretary the names of its first team and, in the event of three teams being entered, the names of its first and second teams, and so on, before any match is played.

In the event of any club not having submitted such nominations before playing its first match of any denomination the players who took part in that club's first match of each denomination shall be regarded as having been nominated for the team in question.

No player nominated for a first such team shall be eligible to play for a second team of the like denomination; and no player nominated for a first or second team shall be eligible to play for a third team of like denomination and so on. In addition, no player shall be eligible to play for a second or lower team if he/she shall have played that season for a higher team in the same competition on more than FOUR occasions (or THREE if only six matches are being played in a small division). On application to the Hon. Secretary a waiver to this rule may be exercised by the Committee.

Nomination of team players does not constitute registration as required by Rule 4.

When a club has two or more teams in one division each team has to be nominated. Reserves for all these teams must be sought from eligible players outside that division until all the fixtures between those teams have been played; thereafter the normal playing-up rules apply.

Clubs should ensure that the teams entered in the league are fully supported by their club membership, including the availability of reserves.

6. FIXTURES

League fixtures for the whole season are to be agreed at the start of the season and each club must confirm their fixtures in writing with all opposing teams, giving all relevant details.

Clubs must complete their fixtures by the agreed 'end of season' date. Any club not completing its fixtures by the agreed date may be scratched. The season may be extended by the Regional Match Secretary, for example if fixtures are affected by bad weather.

Fixture lists must be submitted to the Regional Match Secretary by all clubs entering the regional competitions before matches commence. Additions/deletions/alterations to these lists during the course of the season must be notified to the Regional Match Secretary.

Match fixtures should not be arranged on local tournament dates.

7. POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES

Once fixtures have been confirmed at the start of the season a postponement should only be requested for reasons outside the control of the clubs involved (such as severe weather conditions, power cuts or unavailability of hall). In such cases as much notice as possible should be given to the opposition and this must be acknowledged - an unanswered phone message, text or email is not acceptable. The match should be re-arranged; if this proves impossible the fixture should be referred to the Regional Match Secretary.

Re-arrangements for other reasons may be agreed by the opposition.

All re-arranged fixtures must be confirmed in writing by the team requesting the postponement and the Regional Match Secretary must be informed of the change by the club Match Secretary.

8. ABANDONED OR CEDED MATCHES

i) Abandoned matches (for example because of power failure) are to be re-played if possible, but if mutually agreed by both captains the match may be accepted with the score remaining as it was when the last point was played. The match score card is to be endorsed by both captains. The result will count exactly as the match stood at the time of abandonment. The team which leads on completed rubbers or, if equal in this respect, on completed games or further on points shall be adjudged the winner provided always that two full rounds or the equivalent have been completed.

If re-played, the new fixture is to be regarded as a completely new match and the original fixture is disregarded for all purposes (e.g. restrictions on 'playing up' in Rule 5).

ii) Conceded matches – should a match be conceded then rubbers only will be recorded on the match card (e.g. 9 - 0) and the Regional Match Secretary will give two match points to the club to which the match has been awarded. The club conceding the fixture will be deducted 2 points.

9. TIME LIMIT MATCHES

If, due to hiring arrangements or contingency beyond the control of the club, a time limit has to be imposed on the availability of the hall the opposing team must be informed before the match commences. Both captains will endorse the match card accordingly and the result will be determined as in 8(i) above. In such instances the recommended order of play shall be followed.

The time limit should be set as a specific time at which all play will cease whatever the state of any rubber(s) still in progress. Should the required notice not be given then the home team shall concede any unfinished or unplayed rubbers as for play conceded after an injury - rule 10.

A team shall not be accepted for participation in the league unless the minimum number of court hours is available for matches. Matches on a single court require at least 4½ hours; on two courts at least 3 hours; on three courts at least 2½ hours. Where courts are likely to be shared the requirement will be agreed by the Regional Match Secretary.

10. ABSENCE OF TEAM OR PLAYER

If any player be absent when called upon to play then at the expiration of fifteen minutes from the time agreed for the commencement of the match the opponents shall be entitled to two love games. A further allowance of ten minutes is given for subsequent pairs. Thus, where one court is available for the match, the fixture may be claimed if no pair has arrived after 35 (thirty-five) minutes from the time agreed for commencement - a score of 6-0, 9-0 etc should be entered on the match score card with an explanation of the circumstances. If both sides in a traditional format have only 2 pairs then the match card should show the four rubbers actually played plus two rubbers conceded by each side with the ninth rubber unplayed. See later for other formats.

Where visitors have been notified in writing beforehand of the need for more than one pair to be available at the start of the match in order to use more than one court then it follows that two rubbers may be claimed after 15 minutes where two courts are in use and the entire match may be claimed after 25 minutes. Where three courts are available then the entire match may be claimed after 15 minutes.

The start-time for the match as notified to visitors must be realistic - for example it must allow for time to set up nets or clean the floor etc.

If an individual rubber has to be abandoned by one side for any reason (such as injury) after play has started the score entered on the match card should show the actual scores so far with the opponent's score adjusted to give them the rubber. (Examples:- Score 12 - 7 in the first game and leading side defaults then the rubber is given to opponents 12 - 21, 0 - 21. Score 21 - 6, 22 - 21 and leading side defaults then rubber is given to opponents 21 - 6, 22 - 24, 0 - 21).

11. RESULTS

The home club must send a completed match score card to the Regional Match Secretary within 3 days of the match being played. This may be a hard copy card sent by post or an 'e-card' sent by email or similar facility. Clubs failing to comply with this regulation shall be liable to penalty. A physical score card is to be signed by both captains (or persons of similar responsibility) at the conclusion of the match to acknowledge that scores are in agreement and ensure that players' names have been correctly entered. If an email or similar is sent in then this physical card should be retained in case of query.

12. TROPHIES

All trophies held by clubs which were won in the previous season are to be returned to the Regional Match Secretary before the AGM, suitable cleaned and polished.

Clubs may take responsibility for the engraving on the trophy which should take place during the period held. If wishing to claim the engraving costs the account should be rendered to the Regional Treasurer not later than 1st March. If the trophy has not been engraved it should be returned early to enable the Region to ensure this is done.

The Honorary Treasurer of the Region for the time being shall be for all intents and purposes the legal owner of such cups and trophies in trust for the Region. While all trophies are insured by the Region the clubs holding them shall be responsible for their safe keeping.

13. EXPENSES

Each club shall be responsible for all expenses involved for a home match.

14. SHUTTLES

A supply of new shuttles (which must conform to the standard laid down in BE Laws) must be available for matches and, additionally, only feathered shuttles may be used.

15. DRESS

Clothing worn during all Regional Competitions must be of a type generally accepted as badminton sportswear; it must not be distracting to the opponents.

16. DISPUTES

Any dispute arising between two clubs shall be referred to the sole arbitration of the Committee whose decision shall be final and binding on both. Should either club have a member on the Committee the said member shall not be eligible to vote on this dispute.

17. INTERPRETATION OF RULES

The interpretation of these rules is the responsibility of the Committee. Any query concerning them should be made to the Hon Secretary.

18. 4-PLAYER and COMPOSITE MATCHES

Players in these formats must be ranked; the ranking will be based on a general view of each player's match play - not specifically linked to mens doubles, ladies doubles etc. Each club must have submitted to the Region's Match Secretary a list of all their players in ranking order and the order used for each match must conform to this list. Players should not be listed as of the same standard on the club list unless this is really unavoidable.

It would generally be expected that, for example, the pair 1 & 2 would be the strongest in the team and pair 3 & 4 the weakest. It is possible that in some teams this will not be the case –

players do not always play well in some pairings etc. However the club ranking list should be followed. If necessary it can be revised during the season.

In 4-player matches there are 6 rubbers in all - the four players play in all 6 possible combinations. Each player plays in 3 rubbers pairing up with each of the other 3 players in their team in turn.

Composite matches consist of 9 rubbers. The teams of 2 ladies and 4 men play a mixture of doubles events – 1 ladies, 4 mens and 4 mixed. Each lady plays a ladies doubles and 2 mixed; each man plays 2 mens doubles and one mixed. Only some of the possible mens and mixed pairings are used.

The sequence of play is not important. It should be agreed between the teams to make best use of the available courts and players.

Since each player is always matched against their equivalent in the other team, the absence of a player means that their opposite number will not get a game. In the (hopefully) rare cases where this occurs the opposition should be given as much notice as possible, even on the day of the match.

If, before or at the start of a match, it is known that a player will not be coming then that player must be taken as having the lowest rank for the match – others in the team moving up if necessary.

Latest amendments (the most recent being highlighted):

- 1986 amend nomination rule where two club teams are in same division
- 1986 various changes to restrict match fixture re-arrangements
- 1988 reduce registration period to 7 days
- 1990 only feathered shuttles may be used
- 1990 remove all reference to the East Kent League
- 1992 timing reduced for claiming rubbers for late arrival of players
- 1995 update 'Dress' rule
- 1998 '2-up' becomes '3-up' plus various clarifications (e.g. scoring following injury)
- 2000 Restriction on 'East Kent' players to top NFRBA team
- 2001 Late player affiliation
- 2002 Scoring in incomplete matches; time limit clarification; proof of affiliation
- 2003 '3-up' becomes '4-up'; 7 day registration period removed; flexible de-nomination; KBL
- 2009 restrict playing up to 3 times in small divisions
- 2010 general revision plus new formats e-cards etc; conceding clubs penalised
- 2013 restricting coaching to changeovers
- 2015 ladies pairs in the mens league
- 2019 extra point for fielding a full team
- 2022 removal of requirement to provide refreshments at matches