

Bristol Badminton League

Rules of the Competition

1. The annual competition shall consist of mixed, ladies and mens sections which shall be competed for in divisions of up to seven teams (typically six), each playing the remainder at home and away.
2. [a] The arrangement of divisions in all sections shall be as follows:

Division 1
Division 2
Division 3
Division 4
Division 5
Division 6
Division 7 etc

to be determined by the number of teams in each section each season.

Two teams will be promoted and two demoted each year from each division, with the exception of the 1st and final divisions, where promotion and relegation respectively, are not possible. Numbers of relegations will be flexed if rule 18 has been applied.

3. The divisions shall be filled progressively starting with Division 1 and then the other divisions in number order. Where the number of clubs is not divisible by six, the composition of the lowest numbered division/s shall be decided by the Annual General Meeting. New teams or teams re – entering the competition shall be placed in the lowest numbered divisions according to the vacancy. No club may have three teams in one division.
4. A club may enter multiple teams into any section of the League, with the conditions that:

- a) Members of all teams other than the lowest rank team must be nominated in writing to the League Committee by 1st October or date of first match, whichever is earlier. Nominations must comprise a minimum of 2 men and 2 ladies, 4 men or 4 ladies (dependent on discipline) per team.
 - b) when a club has two teams in the same division, the matches against each other must be played before the end of December.
5. Any player playing for the first team more than twice shall not be eligible for the second team, any player playing for the first or second teams more than twice shall not be eligible for the third team and any player playing for the 1st, 2nd or 3rd teams more than twice shall not be eligible for the 4th team except by special permission of the League Committee.
6. [a] The team for each League match shall be composed of:
- a) for the Mixed Section - 2 men and 2 ladies
 - b) for the Ladies' Section - 4 ladies
 - c) for the Men's Section - 4 men

who shall be bona fide members of the club for at least fourteen days before participation in a League match.

[b] The matches shall consist of:

1. for the Mixed Section – four mixed doubles, one men's and one ladies' doubles.

Each pair shall play each appropriate pair of the opposing team i.e. Six sets in all.

2. for the Ladies' and Men's Sections – six doubles to be played as follows:-

1 & 2 v A & B, 3 & 4 v C & D, then 1 & 2 v C & D, 3 & 4 v A & B. The pairings then swap partners and 1 & 3 v A & C, 2 & 3 v B & D.

All sets in each Section shall be the best of three games.

7. [a] In all sections of the League one point will be awarded for each set won, i.e. a total of six points will be available for each match.

[b] The order of precedence in the divisions shall be decided by the number of points won. If two or more clubs in any division shall score an equal number of points, the order of precedence shall be determined by the ratio of sets won to sets lost. Should the ratio of sets won to sets lost be equal, the ratio of games won to games lost shall decide, and should the ratio of games lost be equal, then the ratio of aces for to aces against shall decide.
8. Matches shall be umpired unless agreed otherwise by both clubs contesting.
9. Feather shuttles shall be used for matches unless the use of plastic / nylon shuttles is agreed by both clubs contesting.
10. The full results of all matches, together with the names and affiliation numbers of the players shall be entered on the Results Card provided, signed by both umpires or club representatives, and forwarded by the home club to the Fixture Officer within seven days of the conclusion of the match. In the event of a match being cancelled, the same rule to apply.

Results Cards must be submitted electronically to Bristol.fixtures@gmail.com.

Penalty points shall be applied to the home team in the event that the Results Card is not received in a timely fashion, as follows:

- 1 point applied on day 8 after the match date
- 1 point applied each week thereafter, to a maximum of -6 penalty points.

Including a team player who is not registered and affiliated correctly as per General Rule 3, will result in the deduction of the rubbers that the player has participated in.

11. [a] At the conclusion of the Annual Competition the bottom two clubs of Division 1 shall be relegated to Division 2. The winner and runner – up of Division 2 shall be promoted to Division 1. The bottom two clubs from Division 2 shall be relegated to Division 3.

[b] The winner and runner – up of Division 3 shall be promoted to Division

2. The bottom two clubs of Division 3 shall be relegated to Division 4.

[c] The winner and runner - up of Division 4 shall be promoted to Division

3. The bottom two clubs from Division 4 shall be relegated directly to Divisions 5.

[d] The winner and runner - up of Division 5 shall be promoted directly to Division 4.

[e] Promotion and relegation from Divisions 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 etc shall be decided in accordance with rule 11[d] depending on the composition decided by the Annual General Meeting. [see Rule 3]

[f] In the event of a Club's 3rd team finishing in first or second place in the division below that which would contain their 1st or 2nd teams, the team placed third shall play the team finishing in fifth place in the higher division and if successful will be promoted, the team due for relegation in the higher division having the choice of court, and the cost of shuttles to be shared equally. [see rule 3]

In the event of a Club's 3rd, 4th or 5th teams finishing in such a position that would result in more than two teams from the same club being in the same division the same rules will apply.

[g] In the event of a Club resigning from the League, the vacancy created shall be filled by the team with the highest number of points of the relegated teams of the Division.

[h] If a Club resigns during the season the results of all matches of the Club shall be cancelled and only the bottom team of the division/s concerned will be relegated.

12. No player shall play in the Mixed, Ladies' or Men's section for more than one Club during the same season unless sanction has been obtained from the League Committee.
13. In the event of a Club wishing to drop a team from any section of the league at the start of the season, this must be the lowest placed team. Any other team may be dropped at the discretion of the League Committee.
14. Rule 14 is to be read in conjunction with Flow Chart 1.

Clubs must agree their fixture lists at the AGM every year. Within 2 weeks following the AGM, a club can request a change to any fixture dates with their opponents without repercussions. After this all fixtures agreed are to be set, and the following applies.

A club may plead exceptional circumstances to the League Committee for consideration if a fixture cannot be fulfilled. Postponement of a

fixture must receive the prior approval of the League Committee. Such approval will normally be granted only on :-

- a) the loss of venue, or
- b) severe weather conditions.

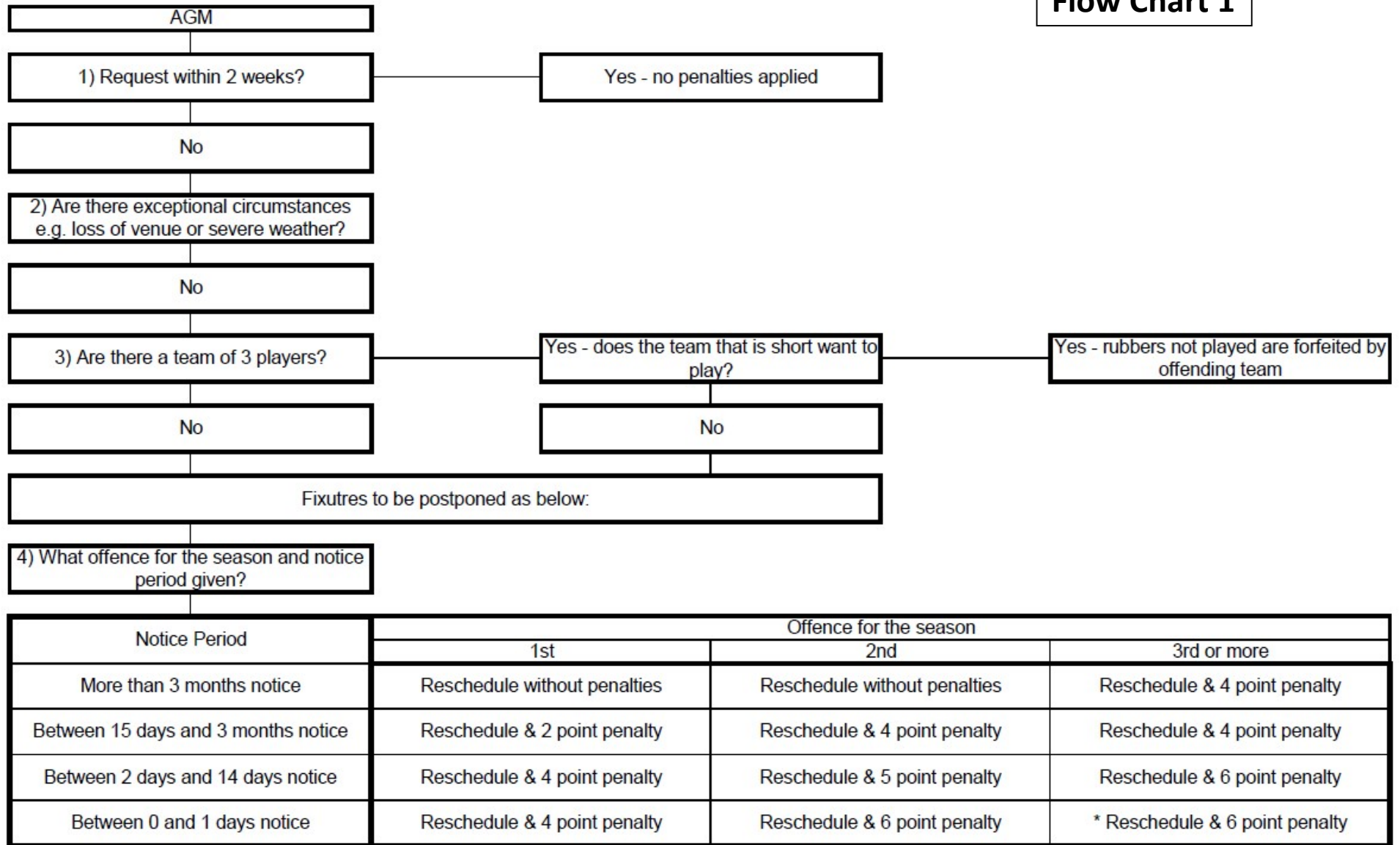
A Club may plead different exceptional circumstances, and a postponement may be granted by the League Committee, but usually only with the additional approval of the opposing Club.

If a club is unable to field a full team, the fixture can be played with three players from the offending team. Rubbers that are not fielded are forfeited. If the offending team cannot field a minimum of three players, the match must be postponed.

Depending on the notice period given and the number of times a team has had to reschedule a match, different penalties will apply (see step 4 of Flow Chart 1).

All clubs must strive to play their fixtures list. In the unlikely event that a match cannot be played by the end of the season, a walkover with full points and maximum score is applied. However, if this result changes the division promotion / winner or relegation standings, then the match must be played before the start of the following season.

Flow Chart 1



* League Committee to consider removal of team from league

15. Matches must not be scheduled to commence earlier than 6.30 pm or later than 8.30 pm on weekdays. Saturday and Sunday matches must not be scheduled to commence earlier than 8.30 am or later than 8.30 pm.
16. If as a result of either the Home or Away team not turning up at the time stated in the League Handbook some games are not able to be completed within the available time, at the discretion of the League committee the offending team may have to concede all the unplayed or unfinished games.
17. All League matches shall be concluded on or before March 31st unless express permission has been granted by the League Committee.
18. It is possible to enter teams into the league at a higher level than the bottom of the league, with agreement of the league committee. This can only be done by exception.

The entry point will be determined based on ability, but can be no higher than Division 3, irrespective of discipline.

Any division into which a new team is entered in this way will run with a maximum of 7 teams for one season (i.e., no immediate relegations due to the entry of a new team). Divisions will be rebalanced back to a maximum of 6 teams at the end of each season, by flexing the number of relegations applied.

Teams/clubs applying to use this rule must:

- Abide by all other rules of the league (for example, clubs with two existing teams in Division 3 would not be able to enter a third team into the same Division)
- Submit an application to use this rule to the league committee by 11.59pm 28th February of the season prior to that in which entry is planned (for example, if entry is planned for the 23/24 season, notice of intent must be received by 11.59pm 28th February 2023)

In order to fairly establish the ability level of the applicant team, a play-off must be held against the top-placed team of the Division into which the applicant team wishes to enter (for example, if the applicant team wishes to enter Division 4 in the 23/24 season, the play-off would be against the winner of Division 4 in the 22/23 season), unless the top placed team is from the same Club as the applicant team. In this scenario, the opposition team would be the highest placed team in the relevant division which is not from the same club. Play-off rules are as follows:

- Play-offs must take place between the end of the season (31st March) and 31st May of the same year

- The costs of courts and shuttles must be borne by the applicant team.
- Choice of venue rests with the opposition team.
- The applicant team must nominate the players for their squad. If the applicant team is successful, these players may only play for the applicant team in the following season, within the relevant discipline (for example, if a team requests entry into Men's Doubles Division 3, their nominated players may only play Men's doubles for the applicant team in the next season. The nominated players may still play a different discipline for another team/club if they choose to do so)
- Scorecards for the match must be correctly completed and submitted to the Fixtures Officer within 3 days of match completion.
- The applicant team must win the tie in order to be granted entry to the division to which they have applied.

In the event that the applicant team loses the play-off, they will not be permitted to enter the league at their specified level. They will have the choice to enter the league at the bottom of the table as per normal rules, or submit a new application in the following season.

If multiple teams submit an application for the same division, they must play-off against one another. Only the winning team will play-off for entry into the relevant division. If the winning team is successful, then the next placed applicant team may seek to enter the next division down, unless another team has already submitted an application for that division. In this case, the team which has submitted a direct application to that division will take priority.

Any club which withdraws a team from the league will not be permitted to use this rule for a duration of 2 years, including the season of initial withdrawal (example: Club A withdraws Team C from Division 5 for the 23/24 season. Club A may not submit an application to use this rule in 23/24 season, but may submit an application in 24/25 season for planned entry in 25/26 season).

Bristol Badminton League

GENERAL RULES

1. The 'Bristol Badminton League' hereinafter referred to as 'the League' shall be a District Association affiliated to Badminton England and the Avon Badminton Association.
2. The purpose of the League shall be to provide clubs with a competition which shall be competed for annually in accordance with the rules of the competition and Badminton England. The League may also provide other competitions and functions which shall be agreed by a General Meeting of clubs.
3. Membership of the League shall be open to clubs whose members are affiliated to the Avon Badminton Association and Badminton England and whose courts are within a radius of twelve miles of Bristol Bridge, subject to the committee's approval.
4. An annual registration fee [as agreed at the AGM] shall be payable for each team entered in the competition on or before the Annual General meeting of the year in which the competition commences.
5. The Annual General Meeting shall elect a President and Vice President, not exceeding three in number, who shall be elected annually and shall be eligible for re-election on retirement.
6. The management of the league shall be entrusted to a committee called the League Committee and this shall consist of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Fixture Officer. The Committee shall nominate one of their members or a co-opted member to serve as a representative on the council of the Avon Badminton Association.
7. The League Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members or form Sub-committees at their discretion, and at a meeting of the Committee three shall form a quorum.
8. The League Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of clubs and shall be eligible for re-election.
9. Each club shall be entitled to not more than two representatives with power to vote at an Annual General Meeting or any General Meeting, and their names shall be recorded on a list of Club Representatives present at the meeting. To be

included on the list of Club Representatives, a club must have paid up membership for the year prior to the meeting and without this qualification such club shall not be entitled to nominate or vote.

10. No alteration to the General Rules or the Rules of the Competition shall be adopted unless two thirds of the representatives on the List of Representatives of an Annual General Meeting or General Meeting shall be in favour of such an alteration.
11. Proposals for alterations of, or amendment to, the General Rules or Rules of the Competition must be submitted in writing to the Committee not later than 31st July, or at least one month before the date of a General Meeting. Notices of such proposals shall be circulated to clubs not less than two weeks before the date of the meeting. Accidental omission to give such notice to any club shall not invalidate the proceedings of such meeting.
12. Application for membership or resignation shall be made in writing to the Secretary on or before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
13. Any club which is not represented at the Annual General Meeting shall be debarred from participation in the Competition. At the discretion of the league committee, the Annual General Meeting may be asked to vote on Membership of a club not represented at the meeting and there must be an unanimous vote in favour of acceptance.
14. Any dispute arising between clubs concerning competitions or functions organised by the League shall be referred to the sole arbitration of the League Committee whose decision shall be legal and binding.
15. The League Committee shall have the power to discipline clubs or individual members of clubs. The disciplinary action to be taken shall be notified in writing to all the club secretaries and the member or members concerned, and there shall be a right of appeal in writing if exercised within two weeks of the notification. Each Annual General Meeting shall appoint a Committee of Appeal consisting of five members, other than members of the League Committee and drawn from five clubs affiliated to the League. Should any club in dispute have a member on the Appeals Committee such member shall not be eligible to vote whilst such dispute or protest is being considered. Any party wishing to appeal to the Appeals Committee shall pay £20.00 in advance of appeal, this sum to be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

The Appeals Committee has the right to vary the decision of the League Committee and it's decision shall be final.

At a meeting of the Appeals Committee three members shall form a quorum.

Bristol Badminton League

SOME NOTES FOR CLUB GUIDANCE ON LEAGUE PLAY

- 1a Order of play – Each match consists, in the Mixed Section, of four mixed doubles, one men's doubles and one ladies' doubles, and in the ladies and mens sections, of six doubles, and these events may be played in any order. Visiting teams should be given the courtesy of choosing the order in which the events should be played, but this should be agreed by both teams before starting the match, or after the mixed doubles if these are played first.
- 1b Team sheets should be exchanged 'blind' before the match commences
- 1c Rally point scoring system to be used in all games as described in the Badminton England Rules.
2. Local Byelaws – Local byelaws applicable to the hall in which a match is being played should be explained to the visiting team e.g. roof is a fault, beams are a let, etc, before the match starts.
3. Nets and Posts - The home team should make every effort to see that the posts and nets are positioned in accordance with Rules 2 and 3 of the Laws of Badminton. Pay particular attention to the position of the posts, or if the net is slung from the wall, provide a white tape hanging where the posts would have been.
4. Court Lighting – If special lighting is not provided make the best of what is available. If there is a choice the lighting should be concentrated over the net without leaving the corners of the court in gloom. Glare from overhead lights can be particularly distracting and shades on lights on the sidelines may help reduce the glare. Inadequate lighting is just as bad as glare, higher wattage bulbs maybe all that is needed.
5. Court Marking – In small one court halls, the court markings have sometimes been adapted to make the best use of the space available. This results in a court which may not be in accordance with Rule 1 of the Laws of Badminton. While such deviations may not be significant to local club play they may be a disadvantage to visiting teams. As with local byelaws, any deviation from the standard should be brought to the attention of the visiting team before the match starts. Clubs entering the League for the first time are advised to consult the League Committee if there is any doubt about the courts and hall facilities.
6. Shuttles – The Rules of the Competition allow feather or nylon/plastic shuttles and it is the responsibility of the home club to provide shuttles of the correct speed. Visiting teams should be given the opportunity of testing the shuttles for speed and

remember they have the option of refusing to use nylon / plastic shuttles. It is sometimes helpful if more than one speed of shuttle is available to suit different atmospheric conditions and most complaints in the past have been of shuttles which were too slow.

7. Umpiring - is recommended, although it is accepted that this is not the norm. Without an umpire, each side has the responsibility for calls on their side of the court. Calls may be disputed by the other side, but ultimately the decision remains with the original caller. Following the outcome of the disputed call, or at any other time, any side can request that an umpire should be assigned for the remainder of the rubber. This umpire should be accepted by both sides as being impartial, even if they may be playing in the match.

At the end of the match the fully completed score card provided by the home team must be signed by both team captains / umpires and returned to the Fixture Officer within 3 days of the conclusion of the match [Rules 10 of Rules of the Competition]