

Notes: blue highlighted changes are minor, with no meaning change
yellow highlighted changes are more substantive



THE WIRRAL BADMINTON LEAGUE

RULES and REGULATIONS

RULES

CONSTITUTION

1. Name

The League shall be called THE WIRRAL BADMINTON LEAGUE, hereinafter referred to as "WBL" or "the League"

2. Objectives

To provide and promote competitive and enjoyable badminton for clubs in Wirral and the surrounding area, primarily between September and April.

To arrange leagues, tournaments and other events connected therewith, in accordance with the laws of badminton.

3. Membership

3.1. Membership to WBL shall be open to clubs situated in Wirral and surrounding areas. Membership will only be granted to those clubs that have affiliated to both the Cheshire County Badminton Association (CCBA) and Badminton England (BE).

3.2. Application to join must be sent to the League Secretary, in writing, at least 4 weeks prior to the AGM and acceptance shall be subject to the decision of the Finance & General Purposes (F&GP) Committee, who shall also have the power to determine the appropriate League/Division/Competition for entry.

3.3. Clubs desirous of withdrawing a team or teams from the League must notify the League Secretary before the 15th August each year to allow the F&GP to determine League/Division structure prior to fixture generation, otherwise they may be held liable for the following season's subscription.

3.4. Associate membership may be granted to CCBA and BE affiliated Clubs and Associations in Wirral and surrounding areas at the discretion of the F&GP Committee.

MEETINGS

4. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

4.1. The AGM shall be held each year prior to the start of the following playing season; the business to be transacted shall include, but not be limited to:

- Receiving audited accounts for the season
- The election of President and Vice-Presidents, who must retire annually but may be re-elected
- The election of Officers
- Receiving annual reports from officers
- The appointment of auditor(s) for the following year
- Consideration of motions for which due notice has been given
- Consideration of any variation to these Rules and Regulations
- Agreement of subscriptions chargeable for the following season
- Agreement of League structure and match format for the following season

4.2. A copy of the Agenda shall be sent to Club Secretaries not less than 14 days prior to the date of an AGM. Accidental omission to give such notice to a Club shall not invalidate the proceedings of an otherwise properly convened meeting.

4.3. Notices of motions to be presented at the AGM must be sent in writing to the League Secretary at least 28 days before the AGM. Notices which have not been previously agreed at an F&GP Meeting must be supported by at least one third of Clubs with full membership.

4.4. Any member of a registered Club may attend the AGM and take part in discussions.

4.5 Each Club team competing in the previous season's WBL League, together with the President, Vice-Presidents and elected Officers, shall be entitled to one vote at an AGM. A person may only have one vote at the meeting and no proxy voting shall be permitted, except under special dispensation requested from F&GP Committee in advance. The Chairperson shall only vote if other votes result in a tie.

4.6. A quorum for an AGM shall be not less than one half of the maximum number of eligible votes.

4.7. Every motion submitted shall be decided by a majority on a show of hands. Where felt desirable by the AGM Chairperson, or upon a request from a majority of those present, a secret ballot shall be arranged, for which two scrutineers shall be appointed by the Chairperson.

5. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

5.1. An EGM may be called at the discretion of the F&GP Committee or on the requisition of not less than one third of the Clubs in full membership. Such a requisition must be sent in writing to the League Secretary, signed by the Clubs concerned, and state the specific reason for which the meeting is being convened. Any motion to be discussed must be incorporated in the notice and no other business shall be transacted.

5.2. An EGM must be held within 30 days of a properly submitted requisition, and at least 14 days' notice of the meeting given to Officers and member Clubs.

5.3. A quorum and voting entitlements at an EGM shall be as for an AGM, except that to be successful any motion at an EGM shall require two-thirds of the votes cast.

6. League Meetings

6.1. The business of the League shall be conducted by the Finance and General Purpose Committee (F&GP) consisting of the President, Vice-Presidents, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Results Secretary, Junior League Representative, CCBA Representative, Competitions Organiser, Development Officer and at least 3 elected Club Representatives. At least four members are required to form a quorum.

6.2. The F&GP Committee shall have the power to fill casual vacancies amongst Officers and members of the F&GP Committee and to form any Sub-Committee for specific purposes, and to define their duties.

6.3. An F&GP meeting will usually be convened on a date decided at the previous meeting, but may be called by the Chairperson provided that a minimum of 7 days' notice is given.

6.4. Voting at an F&GP Committee shall be by show of hands, or a secret ballot if felt necessary by the Chairperson, or requested by a majority of those present. Decisions shall be made according to the votes cast by a majority of those present.

6.5. Minutes of the proceedings of the F&GP Committee shall be circulated to Clubs by the League Secretary prior to the following F&GP Committee meeting.

7. Fixture Meeting

Fixtures for the subsequent season shall be confirmed and adjusted if necessary at a special meeting, which all clubs must attend. Failure to attend, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will necessitate the teams in question accepting any changes to their fixtures as decided at that meeting.

(note: the previous section 7 has been deleted)

LEAGUE ORGANISATION

8. General

8.1. The League shall consist of Competitions as agreed at the preceeding AGM and the format of these Competitions shall be subject to the Regulations agreed by the F&GP. These Regulations shall specify the format of teams, order of matches and scoring regulations. The composition of the Divisions will be agreed at an F&GP Meeting prior to the fixture meeting.

8.2. Divisional placings shall be determined by the number of sets won in fixtures with every set in the match scoring one point for or against each team. Should the total number of sets won be equal, the team with the greater difference in sets won and lost shall be placed higher in the Division. In the event of the teams still being equal, the greater number of sets won in the matches between the clubs shall determine the higher placing.

8.3. At the end of each season, promotion and relegation shall be decided by the F&GP Committee.

8.4. Prior to the Fixture Meeting, the F&GP Committee may vary the composition of the Leagues/Divisions where promotion and relegation lead to an undesired or unbalanced composition which adversely affects a Club or Clubs. Also, should the number of teams in Divisions becomes unbalanced due to resignations from the League, the F&GP Committee may, prior to the fixture meeting, agree to change the composition of Divisions.

9. Fixtures

9.1. In the event of a Club having more than one team in the same Division, they shall be numbered 1, 2 (or A,B) etc in order of strength. League matches between teams from the same Club in the same Division must take place before 31st January of that season.

9.2. Matches must be played as agreed at the Fixture Meeting and as they appear on the Results Portal ([Wirral Badminton League \(bowlsresults.co.uk\)](http://WirralBadmintonLeague(bowlsresults.co.uk))).

9.3. Matches may only be postponed or re-arranged because of non-availability of the hall or exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances do not normally include sickness, injury to players, match clashes with other leagues or social functions.

9.4. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, a team not fulfilling a fixture will be penalised by having points deducted from its Divisional points total up to a maximum of those available to one team in one match (see Regulations)

9.5. Notice of a proposed postponement must be given to the League Results Secretary by the offending team and approval to postpone obtained.

9.6. The Home Club's Match Secretary must re-arrange the match with the Away Club's match secretary.

9.6.1. The agreed new date must be confirmed, in writing (email, message, text), by the Home Club to both the opposing Away Club's Match Secretary and the League Results Secretary.

9.6.2. Any extra hall expenses incurred must be met by the offending Club.

9.6.3. The result of the match will be accounted for in the Divisional tables.

10. Matches

10.1. Teams composition, the events to be played, the number of sets in each event and the scoring system to be used shall be as described in the relevant Regulation.

10.2. Partnerships must be played in order of strength.

10.3. Captains of teams shall simultaneously exchange team sheets and agree the order of play for the match before the commencement of the first event. In the event of disagreement on the order of play, this will be set down in the appropriate Regulation.

10.4. Play shall be continuous and should any player be unavailable when called, then the event will be marked as lost, with scores appropriate for that competition's scoring format.

10.5. League games shall commence not later than 8.00 p.m. or at such earlier scheduled time stated on the Results Portal. Earliest permitted start time is 7.00 p.m.

10.6. All players must be present at the match venue within fifteen minutes of the scheduled start of play and players who arrive after that time may be disqualified, except that Captains may mutually agree in advance of a match to the late arrival of a player(s), but must agree a time limit. In the event of non-appearance after that agreed time limit the excused player(s) may be disqualified and no substitutions allowed.

10.6.1. In the event of a player(s) not present when required for his/her first event, another eligible player(s) may be substituted in the place of the absent player(s), subject to the approval of both captains.

10.7. Where a player(s) is incapacitated before his/her second/third event commences, then an eligible reserve substitution(s) shall be allowed in the second/third event to be played by that player(s) subject to the approval of both Captains. A full report, in writing, of the circumstances necessitating the substitution(s) must be sent to the Results Secretary within 2 days of the match.

10.8. No alteration shall be permitted to a team sheet except for a substitution as permitted in Rules 10.6 or 10.7.

10.9. Unfinished matches and reasons therefore must be reported to the Results Secretary within 2 days of the match. The F&GP Committee will decide any points penalty to be applied to teams with unfinished matches.

10.10. Visiting teams shall abide by the practices of the home Club with regard to "lets" and "faults", provided these are in accordance with the Laws of Badminton. The visitors shall be notified before the commencement of matches of any such circumstances likely to affect play.

10.11. All matches will be played with recognised feathered shuttles. A new shuttle of the same type must be provided at the commencement of each event. The F&GP Committee reserves the right to forbid the use of any particular type of shuttle.

10.12. Umpires and scorers may be appointed by mutual consent and their decision shall be binding.

11. Score-sheets

11.1. An official score-sheet shall be completed and signed at the conclusion of the match by both home and visiting Captains. The home Club shall be responsible for emailing a photographed/scanned copy of the signed score-sheet to the Results Secretary within 48 hours of the match.

11.2. Details of the match, including players and scores, shall be entered on the online Results Portal ([Wirral Badminton League \(bowlsresults.co.uk\)](http://WirralBadmintonLeague(bowlsresults.co.uk))) by both Clubs within 48 hours of the completion of the match.

11.3. Any failure to provide match information in a timely manner is liable to incur a points deduction, to be decided by the F&GP.

12. Registrations

12.1. Each Club shall send a list of each team's registered players to the Results Secretary to arrive not later than the date of the Club's first league match of the season.

12.1.1. Where the club has more than one team in the same League, the players representing the higher team(s) must be identified. Club Officials are responsible for notifying players so registered.

12.1.2. Players registered for a higher team cannot play for a lower team unless they re-register (see 12.2.).

12.1.3. Failure to notify the Results Secretary of registrations may incur a points penalty.

12.1.4. Only members of a Club who are paying the full senior or junior subscription and have been registered for a minimum of 24 hours may represent it in a League match. (The 24 hour rule does not apply for the first match – see the preceding paragraph)

12.2. Re-registration of players between teams of the same Club may be made up to 31st January in any season. The Results Secretary must be notified, in writing, of the reason for the application for re-registration.

12.2.1. Players re-registered to a higher team may play immediately for that team, but players re-registered to a lower team will only be eligible to play at least seven (7) days after playing for the higher team.

12.2.2. Player(s) re-registered to a lower team cannot play for a higher team again during that season unless specific permission has been granted by the F&GP Committee for a player to be re-instated.

12.3. Additional registrations, including inter-club transfers, may be made at any time up to 31st January and will take effect seven days after receipt of notification by the Results Secretary.

12.4. During any one season a player may play a combined total of three times for higher teams than those for which he or she is registered. If a player plays four times for higher teams, then he/she will automatically be re-registered for the next higher team, and subsequent reinstatement to a lower team is not permitted.

12.4.1. If a player is automatically re-registered for a higher team, a player from the higher team may be re-registered for the lower team (subject to 12.2), but it is the Club's responsibility to arrange this re-registration.

12.5. No player shall play for more than one Club at the same time in an individual League; although a player may play for another club in a different League.

12.6. Requests for transfer from one Club to another shall be in writing, signed by the player and an Official of both clubs concerned, and sent to the Results Secretary.

GENERAL MATTERS

13. Subscriptions

13.1. The Treasurer will recommend for approval the subscriptions for the following season at the Annual General Meeting, in the form of an item on the Agenda.

13.2. Subscriptions must be paid to the League Treasurer by 31st October. The F&GP Committee will decide any sanctions relating to non-payment of subscriptions.

14. Equal Opportunity and Child Protection Policies

14.1. The League has adopted the Badminton England (BE) policies with regard to Equality & Diversity and Safeguarding that member clubs must be familiar with and observe. The detailed policies are available on the BE website: addresses are listed on the WBL website.

15. Disputes

15.1. Any disputes arising on any matter connected with the League shall be reported, in writing, to the League Secretary. If the matter affects another club, that club must also be sent a copy of the written complaint, and the second club should submit a written response to the League Secretary within 7 days of receipt of the letter. The F&GP Committee shall consider such disputes and their decision shall be final.

16. Alterations to Rules

16.1. Alterations and additions to these Rules shall only be made at a General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose.

16.2. Written notice of any proposed alterations or additions to the Rules at the Annual General Meeting must be given to the League Secretary not later than 28 days prior to the AGM.

16.3. No alteration or addition to the Rules shall be adopted unless a majority of those present and entitled to vote shall vote in favour of such alteration or addition at an AGM, or two-thirds at an EGM.

17. Alterations to the Regulations

17.1. Regulations governing the format and playing conditions of the different Competitions shall be drawn up by the F&GP Committee and form an Appendix to these Rules

17.2. Regulations may be changed by the F&GP Committee at any time during the season as deemed appropriate to deal with current playing conditions. Clubs will be informed of any changes, and the date on which these changes become effective, by email from the League Secretary.

18. League Executive Powers

18.1. The F&GP Committee shall be the sole interpreter of the Rules, and has the power to impose penalties for contravention or any action by Club or an individual that is considered contrary to the best interest of the game, and the decision shall be final.

18.2. In the event of any question arising which is not provided for in the foregoing Rules, it shall be dealt with nevertheless by the F&GP Committee, whose decision shall be final.

THE WIRRAL BADMINTON LEAGUE **COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

CONTENTS

4 x 4 mixed league

3 x 3 mixed league

4 x 4 levels league (men's)

3 x 3 levels league (ladies')

Knock out Competitions (the "Birkenhead", "Wallasey" ad "Hoylake" Competitions



4 x 4 MIXED LEAGUE

1. All parts of Rules 9 (Fixtures), 10 (Matches), 11 (Scoresheets) and 12 (Registrations) shall apply to this competition.
2. Teams shall consist of four ladies and four men
3. Matches shall consist of eight events as follows:
 - 3.1. Two Men's Doubles against their opposite numbers in BEST of THREE sets to a minimum of 21 points with setting allowed. Partnerships must be in order of strength.
 - 3.2 Two Ladies Doubles against their opposite numbers in BEST of THREE sets to a minimum of 21 points with setting allowed. Partnerships must be in order of strength.
 - 3.3. The same players playing a total of four games of Mixed Doubles, each pair playing BEST of THREE sets to a minimum of 21 points with setting allowed. Mixed pairings must be played in order of strength.
4. The order of play in a match shall be mutually agreed by the two team captains, but in the event of non-agreement the order of play shall be 1st Men's Doubles, 1st Ladies Doubles, 2nd Men's Doubles, 2nd Ladies Doubles, Mixed 1, Mixed 2, Mixed 3 and Mixed 4
5. The maximum number of divisional points available to any one team in a match is 16.
6. The minimum number of players that shall constitute a team shall be 3 men and 3 ladies.



3 x 3 MIXED LEAGUE

1. All parts of Rules 9 (Fixtures), 10 (Matches), 11 (Scoresheets) and 12 (Registrations) shall apply to this competition.
2. Teams shall consist of 3 Men and 3 Ladies
3. Matches shall consist of nine events as follows:
 - 3.1. Three Men playing three crossover Men's Doubles (AB, AC and BC) against their opposite numbers in TWO sets to a minimum of 21 points with setting allowed. Men must be in order of strength.
 - 3.2 Three Ladies playing three crossover Ladies Doubles (AB, AC and BC) against their opposite numbers in TWO sets to a minimum of 21 points with setting allowed. Ladies must be in order of strength.
 - 3.3. The same players playing a total of three games of Mixed Doubles, each pair playing TWO sets to a minimum of 21 points with setting allowed. Mixed pairings must be played in order of strength.
4. The order of play in a match shall be mutually agreed by the two team captains, but in the event of non-agreement the order of play shall be Men's AB, Ladies AB, Men's AC, Ladies AC, Men's BC, Ladies BC, Mixed 1, Mixed 2 and Mixed 3.
5. The maximum number of divisional points available to any one team in a match is 18.
6. The minimum number of players that shall constitute a team shall be 5.



4 x 4 LEVELS LEAGUE (MEN'S)

1. All parts of Rules 9 (Fixtures), 10 (Matches), 11 (Scoresheets) and 12 (Registrations) shall apply to this competition.
2. Teams shall consist of four men
3. Matches shall consist of six events as follows: Four Men playing three crossover Doubles (AB, AC, AD, BC, BD & CD) against their opposite numbers in the BEST of THREE sets to a minimum of 21 points with setting allowed. Players must be in order of strength.
4. The order of play in a match shall be mutually agreed by the two team captains, but in the event of non-agreement the order of play shall be A & B, C & D, A & C, B & D, A & D, and B & C
5. The maximum number of divisional points available to any one team in a match is 12.
6. The minimum number of players that shall constitute a team shall be 3.



3 x 3 LEVELS LEAGUE (LADIES')

1. All parts of Rules 9 (Fixtures), 10 (Matches), 11 (Scoresheets) and 12 (Registrations) shall apply to this competition.
2. Teams shall consist of three ladies
3. Matches shall consist of three events as follows: Three Ladies each playing two crossover doubles (AB, AC and BC) against their opposite numbers in the BEST of THREE sets to a minimum of 21 points with setting allowed. Players must be in order of strength.
4. The order of play in a match shall be mutually agreed by the two team captains, but in the event of non-agreement the order of play shall be A & B, A & C, and B & C
5. The maximum number of divisional points available to any one team in a match is 6.
6. The minimum number of players that shall constitute a team shall be 3.

“BIRKENHEAD”, “WALLASEY” and “HOYLAKÉ”

COMPETITIONS

1. The competitions shall be played each year as follows:
 - The Birkenhead Handicap (playing for the Advertiser Cup) for teams in Division 1 of the North and South Leagues.
 - The Wallasey Handicap (playing for the Vera Johnson Trophy) and the Hoylake Handicap (playing for the Dovepoint Trophy) shall be played on **alternate years by teams in Divisions 2 and 3 of the North and South Leagues.**
2. All clubs playing in each of the respective leagues shall automatically qualify to have one entry per team entered in the relevant competition, and the entry fee shall be included in the annual League subscription
3. The competitions shall be played on a knock-out basis, with handicaps assigned at each round of the event. Each pair in a team will play from the allotted handicap, adjusted where relevant in accordance with the official handicap tables printed in the BE Handbook, with no setting allowed.
4. Matches will consist of nine events as follows:
 - Three Men playing three crossover Men’s Doubles (AB, AC, and BC) against their opposite numbers in TWO **sets** to 21 points (**no setting permitted**). Player A must be the strongest, B the second, and so on.
 - Three Ladies playing three crossover Ladies Doubles (AB, AC, and BC) against their opposite numbers in TWO **sets** to 21 points (**no setting permitted**). Player A must be the strongest as above.
 - The same players playing a total of three games of Mixed Doubles, each pair playing TWO **sets** to 21 points (**no setting permitted**). Mixed pairings must be played in order of strength.
5. All players must be registered and eligible to play for the team in the relevant Division at the date of the match. A player can only play for a club in one of the three competitions in any one season (but, if eligible, can also play for a different club in a different competition).
6. A list of players eligible to play for each team must be provided to the Competition Secretary by a date fixed by the League. Teams will be handicapped based on the names on this list throughout the competition, except the Club may request a deletion where a player becomes ineligible to play in a competition by virtue of playing in another team (see Rule 5).
7. Matches in the first round of the event must be played in the week allotted by the League for these competitions. The date of subsequent fixtures must be agreed between the clubs involved within the time limits set by the League. If a match has to be played by agreement at a neutral venue the court costs should be shared. The Finals will be played on a set date, with court and shuttle costs borne by the League.
8. **Once team sheets have been exchanged at the start of the match, no alterations or substitutions shall be permitted.**

9. The order of play in a match shall be mutually agreed by the two team captains, but in the event of non-agreement the order of play shall be Men's AB, Ladies AB, Men's AC, Ladies AC, Men's BC, Ladies BC, Mixed 1, Mixed 2 and Mixed 3. Play shall be continuous and a 21-0 result may be claimed against a player not available when called.
10. The Home Team Secretary is responsible for arranging the fixture with the opposing team, and for advising the Competition Secretary of the agreed date.
11. Matches must be played with a recognised standard feather shuttle provided by the home team. Shuttle costs shall be shared equally between the competing teams.
12. Matches shall commence no later than five minutes after the official start time for the home club, unless varied by agreement between the teams before the event.
13. Score sheets must be signed by both captains and a photograph/scan emailed to the Competition Secretary by the home team within 2 days of the match.
14. The match result shall be determined by the most sets won by a team, then, if equal, by the aggregate points scored by the teams (including handicaps). If still equal, the sets then the points scored by the 1st mixed shall decide, then 2nd mixed, followed if necessary by 3rd mixed.
15. In the event of disputes, the decision of the F&GP Committee shall be final.



BADMINTON IN WIRRAL

The Wirral Badminton League was formed for the 2004/05 season by an amalgamation of the three existing Leagues in Wirral – the Birkenhead, Hoylake and Wallasey Leagues. The move was considered necessary due to the declining number of teams still playing – in season 2003/04 the number of Divisions/Teams in those leagues was Birkenhead 4/28, Hoylake 3/20, and Wallasey 2/11. These contrast with figures of 7/54, 8/64 and 4/33 respectively at the height of the game's popularity 20 years previously. In its first season the Wirral League commenced with 7 Divisions and 55 teams. In 2016/17 season the totals were 5 and 43 respectively.

Whilst the amalgamation was probably inevitable it was sad to see the original leagues winding up after providing competitive badminton to so many players over the years. All the leagues had been in existence for over 50 years – indeed the Wallasey League was originally founded in 1926, and re-started after the war in 1948. The Birkenhead League was formed in 1946 and the Hoylake League in 1948, we hope the Wirral League is also still going strong after 50 years.