



**MANCHESTER
BADMINTON
LEAGUE
FORMED 2011**

Rules

mcrbl.org.uk

01/08/2025

1. Play

The following govern play in League matches:

- (a) Each team in the League shall play home and away matches with every other team in the same division.
- (b) Where a club has more than one team in the same division the matches between these teams must be played before December 31st, in order to avoid the possibility of manipulating results at the end of the season to gain advantage.
- (c) The home team must inform the visiting team of any bye-laws concerning the home venue, providing such bye-laws are not in contravention of the Badminton World Federation Laws of Badminton.
- (d) Feathered shuttles must be used and they must comply with the specification as described in the Badminton World Federation Laws of Badminton.
- (e) All games in each match are played using the rally point scoring system. The first side to reach 21 points is declared the winner, except:
If the score is 20-20, then the winner is the first side to gain a 2 point lead.
If the score is 29-29, the winner is the side that first scores 30 points.
- (f) If a scorer is requested, then either home or visiting team should provide one.
- (g) Each team in "The League" shall consist of three men (referred to below as A, B & C) and three ladies (referred to below as 1, 2 & 3).

- (i) Each match shall consist of pairs of players playing two games as follows and where possible in the order as shown below:

(the home pair is listed first)

Games 1 & 2:	AB	v	AB - men's doubles
Games 3 & 4:	12	v	12 - ladies doubles
Games 5 & 6:	AC	v	AC - men's doubles
Games 7 & 8:	13	v	13 - ladies doubles
Games 9 & 10:	B2	v	B2 - mixed doubles
Games 11 & 12:	C3	v	C3 - mixed doubles
Games 13 & 14:	A1	v	A1 - mixed doubles
Games 15 & 16:	B2	v	C3 - mixed doubles
Games 17 & 18:	C3	v	B2 - mixed doubles

The mixed pairs B2 & C3 may be played as B3 & C2 with suitable notification on the score-sheet.

- (ii) The AB pair should be stronger than the AC pair.
- (iii) The 12 pair should be stronger than the 13 pair.

- (h) Each team in the Open Division shall consist of any combination of six players of any gender; e.g. 4 men and 2 women, six men, six ladies etc. Playing as a fixed pair.
- (i) Each match shall consist of pairs of players playing two games as follows and where possible in the order as shown below:
(the home pair is listed first)
- | | | | |
|----------------|----|---|----|
| Games 1 & 2: | H1 | v | A1 |
| Games 3 & 4: | H2 | v | A2 |
| Games 5 & 6: | H3 | v | A3 |
| Games 7 & 8: | H1 | v | A2 |
| Games 9 & 10: | H3 | v | A1 |
| Games 11 & 12: | H2 | v | A3 |
| Games 13 & 14: | H3 | v | A2 |
| Games 15 & 16: | H1 | v | A3 |
| Games 17 & 18: | H2 | v | A1 |
- (ii) The following eligibility rules for male players will apply
Div 4 All Male players can play in the Open Division.
Div 3 Male players can play a maximum of 3 matches in the Open Division.
Div 2 Male players can play a maximum of 2 matches in the Open Division.
Div 1 Male players cannot play in the Open Division.
- (i) Warm up time for matches should not exceed 2 minutes.
- (j) 1 point is awarded for each game won. An additional two points is added for a win and one extra point for a draw.
- (k) The ranking positions of each team in the division is determined by the highest score in the following categories, listed by priority:
- Most points won
 - Most aces won
- (l) All line calls are to be made by the receiving pair.
- A let may be granted at the discretion of the receiving pair.
 - The opposing pair, spectators and scorers do not have any authority.
- (m) Players for each team must be bona fide members of the club which they are representing.
- Each club must submit a full list of those players they intend to play in matches to the Results Secretary before their first match and no later than the 30th September.
It is recommended that clubs send a full list of all the club's players to avoid issues later in the season. If this is impractical for any club, they should consult the Results Secretary to agree alternative arrangements which satisfy the rules.
 - All player registrations must state:
Full name of the player
Gender (Open or Female)
Name of club they represent
Team within the club
 - Any new players must be registered with the Results Secretary before the scheduled start of the match. It is recommended that this registration is by e-mail, and should be copied in to the club's own secretary and/or match secretary, in order that a club official also has a record of the registration.
 - No club may register new players after the 1st March in a season, for the purposes of playing League matches in that season, unless permission has been given by the Committee.
 - Players must be registered to a team by 30 September or before the first match for a team where the match is during September.
 - After 30 September players will be automatically registered to the first team for which they play.

- (vii) A registered player is automatically registered to a team when they have played 3 out of their last 5 matches for that team.
- (viii) Any player may play as reserve for a higher team.
- (ix) Only registered Lady players may play down but in doing so will immediately become registered to the lower team and will not be permitted to reserve up or be registered for any higher team until they miss three consecutive matches played by the higher team.
- (x) Playing down is not permitted if either their current team or prospective team has three or fewer matches remaining in the current season's league programme.
- (xi) A registered player can only be re-registered to another team by formal notification to the Results Secretary. Re-registration is permitted only once per season without the permission of the committee
- (xii) Re-registration of a player is not permitted if either their current team or prospective team has three or fewer matches remaining in the current season's league programme.
- (xiii) A player may only represent one club in the league during the season. Players may only change registration in the season with the permission of the MBL Committee.
- (xiv) No player is allowed to play in two different matches at the same time.
- (xv) Substitutes during a match for players who are unable to continue for any reason are not permitted.
- (n) Players are restricted to the number of times they can play for a higher team. The number of times is determined by the number of teams in the higher team's division.
- | Teams in division | Matches for registered team | Maximum number of matches |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 7 or less | 3 | |
| 8 or 9 | 4 | |
| 10 or more | 5 | |
- (o) A player is limited to the number of matches they can play in a season to the same number of matches a team in the largest division would play plus 30% of that number, rounded down. See table below.
- | Teams in division | Matches for registered team | Maximum number of matches |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6 | 10 | 13 |
| 7 | 12 | 15 |
| 8 | 14 | 18 |
| 9 | 16 | 20 |
| 10 | 18 | 23 |
- (p) Playing down by more than one team is not allowed.
- (q) Higher and Lower strength ranking of teams.
- Higher (strongest) teams are ranked as follows:
- Division in which they play
- Division 1
 - Division 2
 - Etc
 - Open Division A
 - Open Division B
 - Etc
- Where a club has multiple teams in a division the stronger teams will have the lower number or earlier letter of alphabet.
- Eg. Team 1, Team 2 or Team A, Team B

- (r) Player movement within teams and clubs will be monitored by the League Committee, with particular focus on teams or players that are systematically abusing the rules to gain unfair advantage. Clubs are at liberty to raise concerns with the Committee over opposition teams where they believe one or more players have played down as soon as they are aware of the issue. The Committee reserve the right to apply penalties for any breach of these rules and for any other un-sporting or unfair behaviour.
- (s) Matches must be played on the date as arranged at the fixtures meeting unless an alternative is agreed by both teams and notified to the results secretary before the original date.
 - (i) If for any reason a team needs to rearrange a fixture they should notify the opposing team as soon as possible.
 - (ii) No match shall be rearranged unless the venue of the home team becomes unavailable OR with the agreement of both Captains.
 - (iii) A new date for the match must be decided upon before the date of the original fixture otherwise the game should go ahead as planned. If one team is unable to field a team, they will concede the match.
 - (iv) If the request comes within 48 hours of the original fixture, a new date must be agreed within 14 days of the original fixture date. If it is not, the team that requested the rearrangement will concede the match. If a home venue is unavailable for a lengthy period due to unforeseen circumstances, the 14-day rule may be waived with the agreement of the Executive Committee.
 - (v) There is no requirement for a team to offer or accept a new date, however, if a club delays responding to a request of or offer of new dates, the committee has the option to award the game to the opposing team.
 - (vi) The team requesting the rearrangement must inform the results secretary of the postponed match and the date of the rearranged match, ensuring the opposition are copied in.
- (t) League matches shall commence no earlier than 7:00pm.
 - (i) The actual starting time must be notified at the fixtures meeting who will publish the information.
 - (ii) If the match has not commenced within one hour of the starting time, the whole match will be forfeit. It will be awarded to the team NOT responsible for the late start.
 - (iii) The team initially responsible for a late start will forfeit any incomplete or un-played games.

- (u) Results of all matches must be recorded on the appropriate score sheet provided at the fixtures meeting. The score sheet, indicating the participating players, is to be filled in before completion of the first two games of the match.
 - (i) A copy of the score sheet should be entered on-line by the home team. The home team should keep a copy and the away team keeps a copy. The score sheet must be received by the Results Secretary within 14 days of the match being played. Copies sent by email are acceptable.
 - (ii) Failure to comply with this rule will result in
 - 1) First late scorecard - suspended 3-point penalty
 - 2) Second late scorecard - 3 points plus the suspended 3 points. A total of 6 points
 - 3) Third and subsequent late scorecards – 3-point penalty
 - (iii) For any scorecards not entered or submitted 14 days after the end of season, the home team will forfeit the match. Matches re-arranged to a date after the official end of season due to loss of facilities may have an extension granted by the committee.
 - (iv) If a match is conceded for any reason, the Results' Secretary will award the winners 18 points.
 - (v) 378 Aces will be awarded to the winners of conceded matches. This is 21 aces for each of the 18 games.
 - (vi) The team conceding the match will not be awarded any points or aces.
 - (vii) If a match is unable to be rearranged, it is in the teams' interest to continue to play the original fixture and concede any games unable to be played rather than conceding the match altogether.
- (v) The Results Secretary will keep scores and publish regularly on the web site.
- (w) All disputes and other matters arising from a match must be submitted to the league committee within 21 days of the match. The League Secretary will acknowledge receipt within 7 days.

2. Penalties

Fixed penalties are applied for the following rule breaches. Rules (o) and (v) still apply.

- (i) All games voided for each player in breach of rules (l(vii) or (n)
- (ii) 3 point penalty will be applied to the 1st team that plays for a club, where the club has failed to send in a list of registered players
- (iii) The playing of an unregistered player is not permitted. Any team doing so will have all that player's games declared null and void and have the games awarded to the opposition. Unregistered players will then automatically be registered for future matches provided that the match in which they played as an unregistered player was before the registration deadline.
- (iv) 3 points to the team for each incomplete or illegible player name
- (v) 3 points to the home team for the late submission of a score sheet
- (vi) 1 point to the home team for an incomplete or illegible home team name
- (vii) 1 point to the away team for an incomplete or illegible away team name
- (viii) 1 point to the home team for incomplete or illegible division
- (ix) 1 point to the home team for incomplete or illegible match date
- (x) Fixed penalties may be increased or decreased at the discretion of the committee.

3. Promotions and Relegations

Automatic promotion and relegation will apply on a one up one down basis. The MBL Committee shall be empowered to determine whether any additional promotions and relegations will apply. The MBL Committee shall be empowered to allocate new teams to whichever division it thinks fit, considering estimates of team strength and the desire to balance the number of teams in each division.

4. Trophies

- (a) Divisional Trophies
 - (i) A club whose team wins the championship of one of the divisions of the League shall be entitled to hold the trophy appropriate to that division for the ensuing twelve months.
 - (ii) Also six individual mementoes will be awarded to the winning team.
- (b) A player winning a restricted championship event of a League tournament shall be entitled to hold the appropriate trophy for the ensuing twelve months.
- (c) Winners of the Slann Cup and the Marjorie Consterdine Trophy (plus individual awards) shall hold such trophies for the ensuing twelve months.
- (d) All trophies are to be returned in good condition to the League Secretary at least one month before the date of the Annual Presentation Evening. The cost of repair to trophies found to be damaged upon return to the League Secretary may be charged to the club concerned, at the discretion of the Committee.
- (e) All trophies shall be perpetual and shall at all times remain the property of the League.

5. Amendments to the League Rules

These rules may only be amended at an AGM or EGM, due notice of amendment being given to the clubs, prior to the meeting. Amendments may be proposed by the League Committee, or by any member club in writing to the League Secretary at least 28 days before the date of an AGM.

6. Code of Ethics and Behaviours

Purpose: To outline the behaviour and standards expected of everyone within the Manchester Badminton League community, ensuring protection and enjoyment for all.

Inclusivity: We believe that everyone should be able to access and enjoy badminton regardless of their gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, background, or circumstances. Whether you are a player, coach, or spectator, you have the right to enjoy your experience.

Expected Minimum Standards of Behaviour and Conduct

All individuals involved in the league will, at all times:

Fair Treatment

Treat everyone fairly and equally, regardless of age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, background, or circumstances.

Respect and Fair Play

Respect the spirit of fair play in badminton, which includes friendship, respect for others, and participating with the right spirit.

Positively acknowledge your opponent at the end of a game.

Respect for Rights and Dignity

Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of others, including players and spectators.

Safety

Conduct yourselves in a manner that takes all reasonable measures to protect your own safety and the safety of others.

Wear appropriate clothing and suitable footwear.

Reputation

Promote the reputation of the sport and take all possible steps to prevent it from being brought into disrepute.

Play within the laws of the game.

Accept success and failure, victory and defeat, with dignity.

Set a positive example for others, particularly young participants and spectators.

Protection from Abuse

Protect others involved in the game from verbal or physical abuse and threatening or intimidating behaviour.

Never use inappropriate language or gestures towards others.

Personal Responsibility

Take personal responsibility to ensure that you are suitably insured for your activities.

Breach of Code

Any breach of the code and all complaints will be managed through the 'Breach of Rules Subcommittee'. Decisions will be final and made in accordance with the rules and with the remit of the powers of the committee, as defined within the Manchester Badminton League Rules & Constitution.

Committee Responsibilities**The committee will:**

Be honest, consistent, objective, impartial, transparent and courteous when enforcing the rules, and in dealings with players.

Understand and abide by the rules of confidentiality, ensuring confidential and personal information is respected and held and used in accordance with the relevant Data Protection Policy and General Data Protection Regulations.

References:

Code of Ethics and Behaviours, Badminton England (2021).

<https://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Code-of-ethics-and-conduct-2021-1.pdf>

7. Transgender Policy

The Committee will follow current guidance issued by Badminton England.