

Sutton & District Badminton League – Rules

General

1. The League shall be known as 'The Sutton and District Badminton League'. It is a non-profit making organisation. All profit and surpluses will be used to maintain or improve the league. No profit or surplus will be distributed other than to another non-profit making body or to members on winding up or dissolution of the league.
2. The League shall be formed of clubs whose courts are within 10 miles of the centre of Sutton but the Committee shall have the power to extend this if it feels it will benefit the League.
3. The Committee reserves the right to refuse a Club entry to the League where that Club has violated the rules of the League.
4. An Annual General Meeting will be held before 1st October in each year. The Secretary will give clubs at least 7 days notice prior to the date of the meeting. The Secretary shall give 14 days notice of any proposed changes to these rules. Any amendment to these proposals must be in the hands of the Secretary ten days before the meeting. A simple majority will decide acceptance or rejection of the proposed changes and the same will apply to any other proposals made at meetings.

Voting: Clubs shall be entitled to votes according to the number of teams entered as follows:

1 to 3 teams – 1 vote; 4 to 6 teams 2 votes; 7 or more 3 votes.

The Secretary shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting at the request of the Committee or upon receipt of a request in writing (including email) from five affiliated clubs stating the purpose for which the meeting is to be called. The Secretary shall give clubs 14 days notice of such meetings and shall specify the purpose for which it is called.

5. The Officers of the League shall be a Chairperson, a Secretary/Treasurer and a Match Secretary, elected at the Annual General Meeting. It has been the tradition that the position of Chairperson has been allocated in rotation based on the date of a club joining the League.

The Committee will determine what fees shall apply for the following season.

Competitions

6. All matches will be played in accordance with the Laws of Badminton and in particular using the Rally Points Scoring System as outlined in law 7.
7. All players eligible for league match games shall play only for the Club with whom they are registered.
8. No person may represent more than one club in each competition, i.e. Mixed, Ladies, Men's, Hybrid, Fours and Moorman Cup. With one exception, a person can change clubs once mid-season and play matches for their new club but cannot play in a division where they represented their old club.
9. Each team will play every other team in the division at home and away. In the event that a club has more than one team in the same division the fixtures between those teams must be completed by December 31st.
10. Clubs entering more than one team in an individual competition (Mixed, Ladies, Men's, Hybrid, Fours and Moorman Cup) must advise the Secretary of the nominated names of the senior team(s) before any match is played in that competition by their club. Named senior team players cannot play in any lower teams. You can nominate up to 12 players per team. If nominated names are not received, those that play in the first match for the senior team will become the nominated players. This may cause lower teams to have their players retrospectively checked for eligibility (this can be avoided by playing one senior match before any lower team matches).

3 out of 6 (in Fours matches, 2 out of 4) nominated players must be used in each match. Otherwise, all players used in a team will become nominated as well as all existing nominations.

A member who plays on more than two occasions during the season for any senior team shall not be eligible to play any further matches for a lower team.
11. Matches should start within fifteen minutes of starting times. Failure to do so will enable the offended team to exercise the option of claiming two love games and further claims of two love games may be made at fifteen minute intervals.
12. Standard feather shuttlecocks to be used in matches, to be provided by the home team. Plastic shuttlecocks may be used provided both teams are in agreement.
13. Following each annual AGM and fixture meeting, there will be a one month period to assess matches and to agree any proposed changes to those fixtures already arranged. After that period, abnormal circumstances notwithstanding, matches will be played on the agreed dates unless both teams agree to the change. If the teams cannot or do not agree on a re-arranged fixture then the match will be conceded by the team cancelling the fixture.

If a match is cancelled due to abnormal weather conditions both teams will make every effort to re-arrange the match. If the teams cannot agree a mutual date the Committee will decide a walkover or have the option to declare the match as "Not played" and no points will be awarded to either team.

It must be borne in mind that if the away team cancels the match there is the possibility of it incurring a payment (half court costs or roughly £30) if the home team are unable to use the courts or cannot cancel the hiring. If costs are not paid and the clubs meet in the same competition the following season, the home club has the option to claim a walkover for their home match.
14. Matches in the Mixed, Mens and Ladies divisions will consist of nine rubbers, with each rubber being the best of three games. Each team will consist of three pairs who will play against each of the opposing pairs.
15. In the Hybrid each team will consist of 4 men and 2 ladies. Each member of the team will be numbered in order of strength before the start of the match. The order of play will be as shown on the score cards although where necessary this can be changed provided both captains agree.

16. In the Fours each team will consist of four members – be it four ladies, four men or two ladies and two men in the mixed. Players will be numbered on the basis that 1 & 2 are stronger than 3 & 4. The order of play will be as shown on the score cards although where necessary this can be changed provided both captains agree.
- 16a. In the Moorman Cup the committee will decide an appropriate format. Expenses of each match are to be shared. The Final will be played on a neutral court
17. Winning teams will be responsible for sending the result to the Match Secretary within ten days and in the event of a draw the home team will be responsible. The losing/away team may send in the result as well if they wish. If the result remains outstanding for a month and as a last resort, the committee has the option to declare the match as "Not played" and no points will be awarded to either team.
18. Winners of matches will be awarded three points. Losers of matches will be awarded one point. In the Fours, a draw may be possible in which case both teams will receive two points. If a team concedes a match, the conceding team will be awarded no points and the "winning" team will be awarded three points. If a match is declared "Not Played" by the committee, both teams are given no points.
19. If two or more teams finish with the same number of points, the winning team will be decided by the number of rubbers won. If the teams are still level then it will be decided by the combined results of the matches between them firstly by rubbers, then games and if necessary points. Subsequent positions in each division will be similarly decided.
20. Clubs winning their respective divisions will be promoted to the next highest division and the club finishing last will be relegated to the next lowest division unless otherwise decided by the Committee.

When the entry forms are completed Clubs will be given the opportunity to make special requests for their teams and similarly new clubs may not have to start in the lowest division if there is sufficient knowledge of its standard. The Committee will have to consider the overall situation and its decision will normally be final.
21. Matches must be completed by 30th April unless both clubs agree that the match be played as early as possible in May and also subject to the League Secretary's approval. If a club does not wish to play in May they can claim a walkover.