

## STEVENAGE BADMINTON LEAGUE RULES 2022-23

1. Although we play for trophies, the friendly nature of the League should at all times be the most important rule.
  2. The League will be administered by a committee. Informal elections for positions on the Committee will take place at each AGM.
  3. The Committee has the power to co-opt an extra person onto the Committee during the season should it become necessary.
  4. Should the Committee deem it necessary, it is empowered to insist upon a rematch, or some other action, if it considers that a team has acted unfairly or otherwise not acted within the spirit of the League rules.
  5. **Mixed 6s** matches will consist of three men's doubles, two mixed doubles, and one ladies' doubles. Matches will be scored one point for each rubber i.e. best-of-three games, using new Rally Point scoring system to 21 points per game. Each team will consist of four men and two ladies as shown on the relevant League result sheet.
  6. **Medley 4s** matches will consist of one ladies' double, one men's doubles and four mixed doubles. Each team will consist of two men and two ladies as shown on the relevant League result sheet.
  6. The home team will supply the shuttles – either plastic or feathers. If plastic shuttles are used they must be MAVIS 600s. (Teams may use Mavis 370s until their stock runs out.) Teams must state at the start of the season which shuttles will be used and inform the Committee and opposing teams beforehand if there is any change during the season.
  7. **a)** Where a club is represented by more than one team in the SBL, the highest ranked team shall be called the A team, the second highest called the B team etc. This rule shall prevail except in circumstances mentioned in 8(b).
  - b)** Where Committee deem “exceptional circumstance” (eg when end of seasons positions would promote a lower ranked team above a higher ranked team, and the players in the lower ranked team wish to remain together as a team) the original names of the teams may be retained at the discretion of the committee.
  8. Nominated players and substitutes:
    - a) All teams are required to nominate their regular teams (4 men and 2 ladies for the Mixed 6s, and 2 men and 2 ladies for the Medley 4s). Where a club has two teams in either the Mixed 6s or the Medleys 4s their best players must be nominated for the higher placed team and team selection made with the intention of the ‘A’ ranked team being the stronger. This is to keep within the spirit of the league.
    - b) The substitution rule may not be abused by making a player a substitute only to enable him/her to play in both teams.
    - c) Substitutes may not be members of a higher ranked team.
    - d) Any number of substitutes may be used in a season (EXCEPT in SBL CUP where special rules apply).
    - e) There is no limit to the number of times a substitute can be used for a club in any one season.
    - f) Teams must endeavour to use substitute players of a broadly similar playing standard to the player being substituted.
    - g) Every club must provide a list of all players who may, during the course of the season, be called upon to act as substitutes.
    - h) Every player who plays in a league match, mens or ladies section or tournament MUST be registered with the SBL Fixtures Secretary BEFORE playing.\* *(If a previously unregistered player is to play in a match at short notice a message via telephone/voicemail, text or email MUST be sent prior to the start of the match –giving name and BE Number - if in doubt as to whether a player has already been registered, it is better to register twice (for the same club) rather than not at all.*
    - i) If a non-registered (ineligible) player plays in a match, any points won by that player will be awarded to the opposing team.
    - j) All rules regarding substitutions apply to both pre-match and in-match substitutions.
    - k) Where substitutes are used the result sheet should be clearly marked with an ‘S’ in the substitute column.
    - l) All players and substitutes must be bona fide members of the club they are representing, and may represent only one club in the in the Mixed 6s and/or one club in the Medley 4s in any one season.
- NB. A player is allowed to play for one club in the Mixed 6s and a different club in the Medley 4s, Providing they have been registered by both clubs for the relevant section.
9. In-Match Substitutions:
    - a) If a player is injured during a game, he or she may be replaced in order not to spoil the match, but that particular ‘best-of-three’ must be forfeited.
    - b) If the injured player still has a ‘best of three’ to play a seventh player may be used if available, providing they are an eligible substitute, and the result will stand.

**10. Match format:**

**a)** Team captains are not obliged to nominate players' status (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>) but should follow the arrangement of pairs in accordance with the official result sheet. Team lists should be written out before play begins and swapped simultaneously.

**(b)** A player can only play in one match at a time, regardless of teams or leagues represented. If a player fails to turn up for a match, the team may use an eligible seventh or fourth player (depending on format of match) if available. (NB The 7<sup>th</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> player – depending on format - must not be playing in another match simultaneously.)

**11.** All score sheets must be written out with both **forenames and surnames**.

**12.** Score sheets and results:

**a)** Score sheets must have all sections complete at the end of the match and signed by both captains.

**b)** The Home team is then responsible for putting the score sheet result details on the website within one week (at the latest) of the match being played. All paper score sheets must be kept by both Home and Away captains until the close of the season in case of dispute or computer problems.

**13.** Any play decisions must be agreed by the players only, not spectators. In the event of ANY DOUBT a let must be played. Players may agree to have a scorer (to score only - not to give opinions on calls).

**14.** Every effort should be made to complete matches, but a team captain may concede the final 'best-of-three' if time runs out. Otherwise arrangements must be made to complete the match on another date.

**15.** It is the responsibility of all team members to arrive in time to play rubbers in the order shown on the score sheet, unless by prior arrangement with the opposing team. N.B Some clubs have two courts, so two pairs need to be ready at the start of the match.

**16.** In the event of a tie in the league position, the team with the most matches won will be placed higher. Then games 'for', then games 'against', then points 'for' and then points 'against'. So it is important to fully complete score sheets.

**17.** Conceded matches will be dealt with on an 'average points' system. (As agreed at the 1996 AGM — details from the committee if required.)

**18. (a)** The Home team Fixture Secretary is responsible for confirming each match with the Away team ten days in advance and must also email the SBL Fixtures Secretary (either directly or via website) to notify that the match has been confirmed. When matches have to be postponed a new date has to be arranged (and the SBL Fixtures Secretary informed) within 3 weeks of the original match date.

**(b)** If an away team asks for a rearrangement within the 10 day confirmation period then that team must offer to pay the court costs incurred by that rearrangement. This rule is in place except for what can be deemed 'exceptional circumstances', beyond a team's control. It is hoped that the teams involved will come to an amicable agreement regarding the imposition of this rule and also any 'exceptional circumstances', such as severe weather conditions eg heavy snow.

**N.B.** No match cancellation prior to 14 days of fixture date for Knebworth ONLY (because of Gosling Stadium cancellation arrangements).

**19.** Teams from same club in same division must play each other 'home' and 'away' by end of November.

**20.** At least **3** SBL league matches must be completed prior to Christmas each season for divisions with 5 or more teams, and 2 matches for any divisions with only 4 teams (except if there are circumstances beyond a team's control AND with SBL Committee agreement).

**21.** No Alcohol is to be brought to the courtside at a match.

***\* The SBL no longer has insurance and in line with other local leagues, all players in SBL matches must be registered with Badminton England and the registration number advised to SBL Committee before any matches are played.***