

## STEVENAGE BADMINTON LEAGUE RULES 2011-2012

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. 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.
6. Each team will consist of four men and two ladies as shown on the League result sheet.
7. The home team will supply the shuttles. Any make of shuttle including feathers may be used. 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.
8. 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.
9. Nominated players and substitutes:
  - a) All teams are required to nominate 6 players (4 men and 2 ladies). Where a club has two teams their best twelve players must be nominated 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. **NOMINATIONS MUST BE WITH THE SBL FIXTURES SECRETARY BEFORE THE FIRST MATCH IS PLAYED.\***
  - 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.
  - e) There is no limit to the number of times a substitute can be used for a club in any one season.
  - f) Every club must provide a list of all players who may, during the course of the season, be called upon to act as substitutes.
  - g) **Every player who plays in a match must be registered with the SBL Fixtures Secretary BEFORE the match is played.\***
  - h) All rules regarding substitutions apply to both pre-match and in-match substitutions.
  - i) Where substitutes are used the result sheet should be clearly marked with an 'S' in the substitute column.
  - j) All players and substitutes must be bona fide members of the club they are representing, and may represent only one club in the league.

10. 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.
11. (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 player if available. (NB The 7<sup>th</sup> player must not be playing in another match simultaneously.)**
12. All score sheets must be written out with both forenames and surnames.
13. Score sheets sent to the Results Secretary must have all sections complete, and be signed by both captains.
14. The HOME TEAM is responsible for sending in each result sheet to the Results Secretary as soon as possible after each match. This is important. Penalty point deductions may be imposed in cases of unreasonable delay.
15. 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).
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. Conceded matches will be dealt with on an 'average points' system. (As agreed at the 1996 AGM — details from the committee if required.)
20. (a) The Home team Fixture Secretary is responsible for confirming each match with the Away team ten days in advance. Match dates may not be changed without informing the Fixture Secretary of the new arranged dates BEFORE the date the original match was due to be played.
- (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.**

*No match cancellation prior to 14 days of fixture date for **Knebworth ONLY** (because of Gosling Stadium cancellation arrangements). **AGREED AT 2011 AGM.***

21. Teams from same club in same division must play each other 'home' and 'away' by end of November. **AGREED AT 2011 AGM.**

22. At least 4 SBL league matches must be completed prior to Christmas each season (except if there are circumstances beyond a team's control AND with SBL Committee agreement). **AGREED AT 2011 AGM.**

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