

## RULES | 2025-26 SEASON

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### SECTION 1: ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 The League shall be called “The North East Wales Badminton League (NEWBL)”.
- 1.2 The League shall consist of clubs affiliated to Badminton Wales and within the counties of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham at the discretion of the League Committee.
- 1.3 The business of the League shall be managed by a committee comprising a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Match Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Coordinator, Cup Secretary, Media Coordinator, Welfare Officer, Junior Coordinator and one other elected member. Amendments to the composition of the committee may be made at the annual general meeting.
- 1.4 Following election, the Committee shall meet at the following approximate times for the stated reason, plus ongoing business and may meet at other times as requirements arise:
  - i) *Beginning of June* to determine next season’s league structure.
  - ii) *Late September* to discuss any initial difficulties experienced by clubs and initiate Presentation Night.
  - iii) *Mid November* to discuss the early weeks of the season.
  - iv) *Mid January* to discuss annual tournament and end-of-season Presentation Night.
  - v) *Late March* for the pre-AGM meeting.
- 1.5 The Committee shall have the power to perform the functions conferred upon it by these rules, to interpret them and to determine any matters not contained in them. At committee meetings, five committee members shall form a quorum.
- 1.6 League officials and representatives shall be elected at the annual general meeting.
- 1.7 The League Committee or any club supported by two other clubs may request a special general meeting on written request to the secretary.
- 1.8 Seven days’ notice of a general meeting shall be given by the secretary to all clubs together with a copy of the Agenda.
- 1.9 Only bona fide members of the League’s constituent clubs shall be entitled to attend and vote at general meetings. Ten such persons shall form a quorum. Voting will be limited to 1 vote per club regardless of how many teams they have registered in the League.
- 1.10 The accounts of the League shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting and shall be audited by a person appointed at the previous Annual General Meeting.
- 1.11 League fees shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting and notified to clubs prior to the commencement of the following season.
- 1.12 Clubs must inform the League match secretary by no later than 31st May of the name, address, e-mail address and telephone number of their secretary, match secretary, club welfare officer, the number of teams to be entered in the League and the match nights, venues and start times of each of their teams. If a club has only one person fulfilling their official roles, that club must provide an additional name, with details as above, to be a second contact for NEWBL communications.
- 1.13 Any of these rules may be altered or rescinded or any new rule may be made at a general meeting provided that notice of a proposed alteration, rescission or addition has been given on the notice announcing the meeting. Any resolution for submission to the Annual General Meeting shall be received by the league secretary not less than 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.

### SECTION 2: LEAGUE COMPOSITION

- 2.1 Clubs may enter any number of teams in the League.
- 2.2 The League shall be divided into divisions comprising, as far as possible, no less than 5 teams each. Any inequality in the composition of the divisions due to teams entering or leaving the league shall be accommodated in the lower divisions. The composition of the divisions shall be determined by the League Committee prior to the start of each season and, in exceptional circumstances, may be amended at any time to maintain the viability of each division.

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- 2.3 Winners, promotions and relegations shall be decided by the number of games won over the season. In the event of a tie on games won, the game difference shall determine the issue. Should a further tie then ensue, the difference between points won and lost shall be the criterion.
  - 2.4 The top team in each division except the first division shall be promoted to the next higher division. The bottom team in each division except the bottom division shall be relegated to the next lower division. In the event of the composition of the divisions being re-organised in accordance with Rule 2.2, no team shall be deprived of promotion. If a team is due to be relegated to a division from which a team from the same club is due to be promoted, then their respective relegation and promotion shall be null and void.
  - 2.5 The match secretary shall circulate current league tables to all clubs at suitable intervals throughout the season.

### **SECTION 3: ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION**

- 3.1 Only bona fide members of League clubs which are affiliated to Badminton Wales or any other county association as provided for in Rule 1.2 are eligible to play in League matches. The method of registering players for affiliation purposes and the amount of fees will be notified to clubs prior to the start of the season.
- 3.2 For League registration purposes, all clubs must submit their team registration fee (£10 per Team) and lists of their players in strict order of individual merit, to the League Match Secretary by the 15th September, ready for the start of a new season. Clubs that fail to meet this requirement will not be allowed to play badminton in the League until the list has been received by the League Match Secretary and a points deduction will be applied, which will be decided by the League Committee.
- 3.3 Teams in Mixed League matches shall comprise of four men and four women and teams in the Men's/Women's Leagues shall comprise of four players each. Clubs shall not register less than this number for each team. However, clubs may register more than this number to represent each team provided that all players registered in the A team are merited higher than those in the B team and so on. The registration of reserves which does not comply with the club's order of merit is not permitted.
- 3.4 Additions to the registration list may be made to the League Match Secretary at any time by re-submitting the registration list fully completed and signed by a club committee member. Any additional registrations must be consistent with the club's order of merit and any additional players cannot play in matches during the 72 hours immediately preceding the time and date of the first match for which registered.
- 3.5 Any player may be re-registered from one team to another provided that the club's order of merit is maintained with due regard to the current form of its players. Seven days' notice of re-registration shall be given to the league match secretary and confirmed in writing. A player re-registered to a lower team shall not play for that team within the days Sunday to Saturday inclusive of the week in which that player represented the team from which re-registered.
- 3.6 If a team requires a reserve to play in a match, the reserve may be selected from any of the club's registered players provided that the player is not registered for a team higher than that for which required as a reserve. Reserves names on score sheets shall be marked with a capital R and their names included in the Reserves box along with their usual team (B,C,D etc.).
- 3.7 In the event of a player playing in a team lower than that for which registered, the game in which the offence took place and all games below this will be awarded 21-0 21-0 to the opposing team.
- 3.8 If a player transfers from one club to another, the receiving club must register the player in accordance with Rule 3.4. The new registration must state which club the player has transferred from and be signed by the transferred player. On receipt of the new registration, the player's registration with the former club will be automatically cancelled and the releasing club informed by the League Match Secretary. If this procedure is not complied with, the player will be regarded as unregistered and will be subject to the conditions of Rule 3.10.
- 3.9 No player shall be registered to represent more than one club concurrently.
- 3.10 In the event of a club playing an unregistered player, the game in which the offence took place and all games below this will be awarded 21-0 21-0 to the opposing team.
- 3.11 A player may not play as a reserve for any higher team in more than half the total number of matches throughout the season. The Match Secretary will confirm these figures for each League once the League Structures have been finalised. The total shall be cumulative regardless of which of a club's teams the player acts as a reserve for. If a player acts as such a reserve more than the specified amount, the events in which the player played, and all lower games, shall be awarded to the opposing team and the results of the match amended accordingly. Following the maximum number of games as a reserve being reached, the Club must inform the League Match Secretary within seven days of the event. The player then either remains in their current team and is no longer eligible to play as a reserve again, or, on playing

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their next match as a reserve, is automatically registered into the team higher than the one they are currently registered for and is no longer eligible to play in the lower team.

- 3.12 No player shall play more than one NEWBL match on the same night, nor shall a player play in both a NEWBL match and a match for another league on the same night. If this rule is contravened, the League Committee reserves the right to impose up to a 4-match ban on the player concerned.

#### **SECTION 4: MATCH PLAY**

- 4.1 Each match in the Mixed League shall consist of eight events comprising four mixed, two women's and two men's doubles and each match in the Men's/Women's Leagues shall consist of six events of level doubles. Each event will be the best of three games of 21 points using the Rally Point scoring system as defined by Badminton Wales, 'The Laws of Badminton'.
- 4.2 Matches shall commence promptly at the time stated on the website and continue without interruption. The order of play in the Mixed League shall be mixed doubles in order of merit, 1st women's doubles, 1st men's doubles, 2nd women's doubles and 2nd men's doubles. The order of play in the Men's/Women's Leagues shall be 1+2, 3+4, 1+3, 2+4, 1+4, 2+3. Players must be available for play on this basis unless prior arrangement has been reached between opposing captains. Any pair not available to play when required shall forfeit the event for which they were late by 21 points to nil. The order of play may be varied during a match by agreement between captains. Any player arriving 30 minutes after the start time, without prior permission, shall forfeit two games by the score of 21-0.
- 4.3 Prior to the commencement of play, captains shall simultaneously exchange team sheets and alterations shall not be permitted during the course of the match. In the Mixed League it is not necessary for the pairing of couples to follow a club's order of individual merit, but pairs nominated on the team sheet shall be played in strict order of strength in all events. In the Men's/Women's Leagues players must be listed in strict rank order as contained in the Team Registration Form (Rule 3.2). The League Committee will only act on breaches of this rule in response to a written complaint by the opposing team. The Committee's decision on such complaints shall refer only to the match in which the complaint arose. If the complaint is upheld, a points deduction will be applied, which will be decided by the League Committee.
- 4.4 At the end of each match, two copies of the score sheet must be signed by both captains. All items on each score sheet (date and time of commencement, teams' and players' names, venue, game scores, games and points) must be completed. The home captain must ensure they send a signed scoresheet to the Match Secretary and the Media Coordinator within 7 days of the match.
- 4.5 Visiting teams shall abide by the by-laws of the home club with regard to lets and faults providing they do not contravene the laws of badminton. Opposing captains shall also resolve any other matters which may affect play prior to commencement.
- 4.6 Feather shuttles shall be used in all NEWBL matches.
- 4.7 Any pair may request the provision of a scorer at any time during play.

#### **SECTION 5: POSTPONEMENTS AND CONCESSIONS**

- 5.0 Prior to the start of the season, Clubs have a two week period directly following the distribution of Draft 1 of the Fixtures, in which they can request rearrangements where possible. All requests must be made in writing to the Match Secretary.
- 5.1 The postponement of matches is not permitted except for the unavailability of the hall or severe inclement weather or, in exceptional circumstances, by the order of the League Committee. Any club wishing to postpone a match must obtain the permission of the League Match Secretary before informing the opposing club. Player unavailability, owing to commitment playing in another league, would not be considered as an exceptional circumstance to grant a match postponement.
- 5.2 The home club of a postponed fixture will be responsible for re-arranging the match by offering to the opposing club, in writing, not less than two alternative dates which do not coincide with a scheduled fixture of the opposing team. The opposing team must make a written acceptance of one of the dates except that they may refuse a date which coincides with any NEWBL event, in which case a substitute date must be offered. The home club must inform the League Match Secretary of the revised date of the fixture immediately it is confirmed.
- 5.3 The concession of matches is to be discouraged and will only be granted by the League Match Secretary after all other options have been considered. If a Club concedes a match without the permission of the League Match Secretary, the League Committee may require the fixture to be played on an alternative date.

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- 5.4 The League Committee shall have the right to investigate the reasons for any unfulfilled fixture arising from Rules 5.1-5.3 and may penalise the Club responsible, if appropriate.

## **SECTION 6: LEAGUE TOURNAMENT**

- 6.1 Entry to the league tournament shall be restricted to players registered with the NEWBL. Registered players whose playing standard is considered by the League Committee to be inconsistent with the 'Moderates' status of the tournament, shall be debarred and be informed of their exclusion at the time of issue of tournament entry forms. The number of such players shall be determined by the League Committee. The Committee reserve the right to refuse entry to any other player for a stated reason and such exclusions shall be notified on receipt of a completed tournament entry form. In the event of low entries the League Committee reserves the right to relax Rule 6.1 as they see fit to encourage maximum participation and enjoyment of NEWBL players.
- 6.2 It shall be a condition of entry that no player shall have any commitment which necessitates leaving the hall during the hours of play of the tournament. Any player found to have such a commitment shall be immediately scratched from the event for which not available with no right of return.
- 6.3 Players must complete all their games in the tournament and shall not withdraw after commencement of play without, in the opinion of the tournament secretary, a satisfactory reason.
- 6.4 The submission of a tournament entry form shall signify the acceptance by the player of the foregoing rules and any other rules and conditions which may be attached to the entry form. A player contravening any of these rules and conditions may be subjected to disciplinary action and debarred from entry to future tournaments.

## **SECTION 7: DISPUTES**

- 7.1 Clubs and registered players shall have the right to have any complaint concerning NEWBL investigated by the League Committee provided that the League Secretary is informed in writing within seven days of the event causing complaint. In the case of a dispute arising from a league match, the protesting club shall make a written complaint to the League Secretary within seven days of the fixture and simultaneously inform the opposing club in writing. In the case of a complaint arising from a late start or unavailability of players as required in Rule 4.2, the protesting captain must additionally inform the opposing captain at the time of the occurrence. Any club or registered player involved in a dispute shall have the right to be represented at the League Committee meeting at which the dispute is considered.
- 7.2 Social media shall not be used to air grievances against NEWBL, League officials or clubs and players registered with the NEWBL. Any justified grievance should be raised using the Disputes process as set out in League Rule 7.1. Any contravention of this Rule will result in action by the League Committee.

## **SECTION 8: PRIZES**

- 8.1 At the end of each season, trophies shall be awarded as follows: -  
Divisional winners shall receive one team trophy to be held for one year and eight individual awards for the usual members of the winning team. Divisional runners-up shall receive eight individual awards for the usual members of the runners-up team. Awards shall be provided by the League but the clubs involved may request as many further individual awards as required at the clubs' expense. Clubs should request additional awards only for players who have played in a significant number of matches.

## **SECTION 9: CUP AND PLATE COMPETITIONS**

- 9.1 Entry to the competitions shall not be compulsory, but participating League clubs may enter any number of teams. Clubs entering the Cup competition must indicate whether they wish to participate in the Plate competition if qualified to do so as provided for in Rules 9.3 and 9.4.
- 9.2 If the number of teams entering the Cup competitions is such that a full draw cannot be made, teams entering will be seeded based on their handicaps. The top number of seeds required to give a full draw in the second round will receive byes from the first round.
- 9.3 If the first round of the Cup competition comprises a full draw, teams qualifying for the Plate competition shall be those who play and lose in this round.

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- 9.4 If the first round of the Cup competition does not comprise a full draw, teams qualifying for the Plate competition shall be those who play and lose in the first round plus those who play and lose in the second round provided they have not played and won in the first round.
- 9.5 The first round draw of the Plate competition shall include all qualifying teams regardless of handicap.
- 9.6 Except as provided for in Rule 9.2, the ties for each round of the Cup and Plate competitions shall be obtained by an unseeded draw, the first team out of the draw being the home team who shall be responsible for arranging the date and venue of the match and informing the visiting team at least seven days before the commencement of the match. The draw for the semi-finals shall be made in the presence of the participating team captains immediately prior to the matches being played. The Cup Committee shall endeavour to arrange semi-final and final ties on neutral courts where possible, but may nominate any venue at their discretion.
- 9.7 When required to do so, each participating club shall submit a list of players in strict order of merit who will represent that club in the competition. If a club does not submit such a list by the required date, it will be assumed that the club does not wish to enter the competition.
- 9.8 Teams in the Cup and Plate matches shall comprise of three men and three women. Clubs shall not register less than this number for each team. However, clubs may register more than this number to represent each team provided that all players registered in the A team are merited higher than those in the B team and so on. The registration of players which do not comply with the club's order of merit is not permitted and any players registered separate to the provisions of this rule shall be regarded as being registered in the club's lowest team.
- 9.9 Except as provided for in Rule 9.11, additions to the registration list may be made in writing to the Cup Secretary provided that the additional registration is consistent with the club's order of merit and that seven days' notice prior to the Monday of Cup week is given.
- 9.10 Except as provided for in Rule 9.11, any player may be re-registered from one to another team provided that the club's order of merit is maintained with due regard to the current form of its players. Seven days' notice of re-registration prior to the Monday of Cup week shall be given to the Cup secretary and confirmed in writing.
- 9.11 No new registrations or re-registration to a lower team shall be permitted after the round of the Cup and Plate competitions immediately prior to the semi-final round. Additionally, when a team ceases to remain in either the Cup or Plate competitions the players registered for that team at the time of its elimination shall not be allowed to be re-registered to a lower team.
- 9.12 Players may only be registered for the Cup and Plate competitions for a club for which registered in the League.
- 9.13 In the event of a player playing in a team lower than that for which registered, the game in which the offence took place and all games below this will be awarded 21-0 21-0 to the opposing team.
- 9.14 In the event of a club playing an unregistered player, the game in which the offence took place and all games below this will be awarded 21-0 21-0 to the opposing team.
- 9.15 If a club requires a player to play in a team higher than that for which registered, the player may be selected from any of the club's registered players provided that the player is not registered for a team higher than that for which required.
- 9.16 A player may not play for a higher team than that for which registered on more than two occasions throughout the currency of the Cup and Plate competitions. The total of two shall be the cumulative regardless of which of the club's higher teams the player represented. If a player represents a higher team more than twice, the events in which the player played shall be awarded to the opposing team by two games to love. The points scored in such games shall be 21 to the team to whom they are awarded, and the adjusted handicap score, whether plus or minus, to the offending team.
- 9.17 No player shall be allowed to play in more than one Cup or Plate match in the same night.
- 9.18 All participating teams shall be allocated a handicap based the submitted list of players which will apply throughout both Cup and Plate competitions. Handicaps cannot be altered except that the Cup Committee reserve the right to re-handicap in the event of a change of a team's personnel by virtue of a new player registration or a re-registration as provided for in rules 9.9 and 9.10. There shall be no alteration of handicap for a player representing a team higher than that for which registered.
- 9.19 Each match shall consist of nine games comprising three mixed, three women's and three men's doubles, each event comprising two games of 21 points. The Rally Point scoring system will be used, as defined in Badminton Wales, 'The Laws of Badminton', except games are only to 21 points and it is not necessary to win by 2 clear points, if the score becomes 20-all. The result of the match shall be decided by the number of games won by each team. In the event of a tie, the team scoring the most points shall be the winner. In the event of a further tie, the first mixed pairs shall play one extra game, the result of which shall decide the match.

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- 9.20 Prior to the commencement of play, captains shall simultaneously exchange team sheets and alterations shall not be permitted during the course of the match. It is not necessary for the pairing of couples to follow a club's order of merit, but pairs nominated on the team sheet shall be played in strict order of strength in all events.
- 9.21 At the end of each match, two copies of the score sheet must be signed by the home and visiting captains and the time of commencement of play inserted. The home captain shall be responsible for forwarding one copy of the score sheet to the Cup Secretary and one copy to the Media Coordinator. All scoresheets must be received by both the Cup Secretary and the Media Coordinator within 3 days of a match.
- 9.22 Matches shall commence promptly at the time stated on the website and continue without interruption. The order of play shall be mixed doubles in order of merit, followed by the level doubles in order of merit alternating between men's and women's. Players must be available for play on this basis unless prior arrangement has been reached between opposing captains. Any pair not available for play when required shall forfeit the event for which they were late by 21 points to their adjusted handicapped score. The order of play may be varied during a match by agreement between captains. Any player arriving 30 minutes after start time, without prior permission, shall forfeit two games by the score of 21 points to their adjusted handicapped score.
- 9.23 Visiting teams shall abide by the bye-laws of the home club with regard to lets and faults providing they do not contravene the laws of badminton. Opposing captains shall resolve any other matters which may affect play prior to commencement.
- 9.24 Feather shuttles shall be used in all Cup and Plate events which shall be provided by the home team, except that in the semi-finals and finals the League shall provide the shuttles.
- 9.25 Cup and Plate matches must be played during the weeks designated on the website except as provided for in Rules 9.26 and 28.
- 9.26 The postponement of matches is not permitted except for the unavailability of the hall, or in exceptional circumstances, by order of the Cup Committee. Any club wishing to postpone a match must obtain permission of the Cup Secretary before informing the opposing club.
- 9.27 Any match postponed in accordance with Rule 9.26 must be played during the two weeks immediately following the designated week. The home club of a postponed fixture will be responsible for re-arranging the match by offering the opposing club in writing not less than two alternative dates, one of which must be accepted in writing. For this purpose, the Cup and Plate competitions shall take precedence over League fixtures, but the away club may refuse a date on a Sunday or one which coincides with any other League event, in which case a suitable date must be offered. The home club must inform the Cup Secretary of the revised date of the fixture immediately it is confirmed.
- 9.28 If a match is not completed within the time first stipulated in Rule 9.27 the Cup Committee shall determine the result of the match.
- 9.29 The Cup Committee reserve the right to refuse entry to the Cup and Plate competitions for a specified reason.
- 9.30 Registered clubs and players shall have the right to have any complaint investigated by the League Committee. All complaints must be made in writing to the appropriate secretary within seven days of the event causing complaint. If the complaint involves another party, a copy of the letter must simultaneously be sent to that party. In the case of a complaint arising from a late start or unavailability of players in a Cup or Plate fixture as required in Rule 9.22, the protesting captain must additionally inform the opposing captain at the time of the occurrence. Any affiliated club or player involved in a dispute shall have the right to be represented at the Committee meeting at which the dispute is considered.

## **SECTION 10: AFFILIATION OF CLUB AND PLAYERS' REGISTRATION**

- 10.1 All players who are members of affiliated clubs must be registered irrespective of whether they play in teams or tournaments. Each player is then covered by insurance. Each club is covered by public liability insurance. Information available from [www.badminton.wales](http://www.badminton.wales).

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