

RULES

1. The League shall be called The Yehlex Stockport and District Badminton League.
2. **OBJECTS** to provide and promote competitive badminton on the League principle for clubs in the neighbourhood of Stockport, and to arrange matches, tournaments and all other events connected therewith.
3. **MEMBERSHIP** shall be open to Clubs whose courts are situated within a radius of ten miles of Stockport Town Hall. New Clubs desirous of joining the League, will make application on the appropriate form, to be received by the League Secretary not later than 30th June and acceptance shall be subject to the sanction of the Management Committee. Any such new Clubs or additional teams from existing clubs shall enter the League at an appropriate position in the League, subject to there being spaces available, and approval by the Management Committee. The Management Committee shall have the right to promote after one season, any Club from the lowest division which it feels is completely above the division's standard. Associate membership shall be open to properly constituted Clubs wishing to be affiliated to the League but not currently participating in League play. Associate member Clubs will not have voting rights at annual meetings or be eligible to enter senior tournaments.
4. **RESIGNATION** Any Club wishing to withdraw a team or teams from the League shall give notice in writing or by e-mail, to the League Secretary before 30th June, otherwise that Club will be liable for the ensuing years' subscription. In the event of a Club having to withdraw one or more of its teams from the League it can request to withdraw any team(s) rather than its lowest team.

5. **GOVERNMENT** The government of the League shall be vested in a Management Committee consisting of officials and elected members of the Executive Committee who shall all be ex-officio and one representative of each Club playing in the league.

Inter alia, the Management Committee shall have power to:

- (a) Sanction or refuse all application for membership.
- (b) Terminate the membership of any Club already in the League.
- (c) Determine the constitution of the Divisions of the League.

The Management Committee may delegate any of its powers to an Executive Committee consisting of the elected Officials, who may co-opt, annually, up to three others to be members of the Committee.

In particular, the Management Committee may delegate to the Executive Committee the power to:

- (a) Make decisions with regard to abandoned matches.
- (b) Give rulings on all disputes or appeals or on any matter relating to the League.
- (c) Make Byelaws to govern any matter not provided for in the Rules, save that such Byelaws shall be subject to confirmation at the Annual General Meeting next following.

6. **OFFICIALS** The Officials shall consist of a President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Match Secretary, Veterans League Organiser, Results Secretary, Tournament Secretary, Junior League Organiser, Messer Trophy Organiser, Junior Tournament Organiser and Website Co-ordinator. The President to be elected for a two year term only and cannot serve two consecutive terms. Nominations for any posts to be received by the Secretary in writing or by email at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting and to show the names of the proposer and seconder.

7. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Management Committee: Meeting of the Management Committee shall be held at least once in each year, and shall be convened by the Chairman, or the Secretary, or on the application of two or more members of the Committee. A quorum shall consist of not less than one half the number entitled to attend. A Club not represented at any Management Committee Meeting, or Annual General Meeting, or EGM shall be liable to a fine of £25 per meeting missed.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee may meet, adjourn and regulate its business as it thinks fit and a quorum shall consist of not less than one half of the number entitled to attend.

8. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** The Annual General Meeting shall be held in May each year for the purpose of electing officials, to elect our Auditor, to receive the report of the Secretary, to receive the Statement of Accounts and the report of the Treasurer, to determine the amount of the subscriptions for the ensuing year, and to transact any business raised upon notice of motion or at the request of the Executive Committee. A quorum for the Annual General Meeting shall be thirty people. Each Club in the League shall have at least 14 days notice of such meeting, any notice of motion for inclusion on the agenda must reach the League Secretary not later than 28th February, all motions to be signed by a proposer and seconder. Attendees must either be registered for a club in the Stockport League as a player or as a non-playing official, e.g. Secretary, Treasurer or Match Secretary. All Members of the Executive Committee and Life Vice Presidents are eligible to attend the Annual General Meeting. Anyone who is registered as an official and a playing member of 2 different clubs may only represent one club and must identify which club they are representing when signing in for admission to the meeting. Each eligible attendee at the Annual General Meeting shall have power to vote on any matter.

9. **ALTERATIONS TO RULES** New rules can only be introduced or old ones expunged or altered at the Annual General Meeting of the League, or at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the League convened for the purpose. Written notice of suggested alteration or additions to the Rules must reach the League Secretary not later than 28th February. All proposed motions and suggested rule alteration or changes to be circulated to Clubs within 4 weeks of the 28th February of each year. However, if a rule change is passed that has an unforeseen and direct impact on an existing rule, the meeting may propose and vote on amendments to the affected rule.
10. **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING** An Extraordinary General Meeting of the League may be convened by the Executive Committee, the Management Committee or the League Secretary upon a written requisition signed by the representatives of not less than three Clubs, such requisition to state the objects for which the meeting is called. Fourteen days' notice shall be given to all League Clubs of any Extraordinary General Meeting. The motion or motions to be discussed shall be incorporated in the notice and no other business shall be transacted. Eligibility for attendance and voting, and the quorum required for an EGM shall be the same as for an Annual General Meeting.
11. The Laws of Badminton as currently adopted by the Badminton World Federation shall apply.
12. **SHUTTLES** Feathered shuttles shall be used in all matches. The approved shuttles for this season are YEHLEX PREMIERSHIP or CHAMPIONSHIP. If the agreed shuttles are not available the number of games not played with the approved shuttles will be forfeited.

13. **PLAY** The following shall govern play in League matches:
- (a) Each team in the League shall play home and away matches with every other team in the Division.
 - (b) Each match shall be played by teams consisting of Three Ladies and Three Gentlemen, who shall play Three Ladies' Doubles, Three Gent's Doubles and Three Mixed Doubles. The players for all level Doubles shall be ranked in order of playing ability. The couples for Mixed Doubles games shall be ranked in order of mixed playing strength; the order of play in these games shall be declared on the Official Score Sheet by the opposing Captains before play commences. The nine couples so formed shall play two games of 21 aces against the couples of equal rank in the opposing team.
 - (c) Matches shall commence at the time stated in the handbook or at a time mutually agreed by the captains of the 2 teams. The order of play shall be as set out on the official score sheet. If either team does not have gents 1 & 2 ready for play 15 minutes from the scheduled agreed time that team shall forfeit the 1st game, if after a further 15 minutes gents 1 & 2 are still unavailable the second game is forfeited. Following the scheduled or agreed start time, players must be present and ready for play in subsequent games assuming an elapsed time of 15 minutes per game per available court. From a scheduled pair of games between opposing pairs, if a pair only claims the first game due to the non-availability of the opposition, then when playing the remaining game, that pair will have choice of ends, with the option to serve being determined in an agreed manner. If the order of play is changed to accommodate the late arrival of player/s and all possible games have been played, from the 12 level doubles any remaining games that are unplayable shall be claimed at this time. If players are unavailable from both teams, then unplayed games are void and no points are awarded to either side.

If a player fails to turn up, then the mixed doubles must still be played in order of precedence and the match card may be amended. For example MX D1 cannot be conceded for an unavailable player if MX D2 and MX D3 are played.

- (d) Any club unable to provide a full team will forfeit, to the opposition all games not played. Rule 13b still applies and all eligible players must be entered on the match card and play in order of strength, number 1 down to number 3. If unable to field a full team, every effort must be made to notify the opposition as far in advance as possible, by phone. For any teams fielding fewer than 5 players the following penalties may apply at the discretion of the Committee. Fielding 4 players a penalty of 2 points, fielding 3 players a penalty of 4 points, fielding 2 players a penalty of 6 points and for less than 2 players a penalty of 10 points.
- (e) Generally the conduct of the game will be in the hands of the players. However, an umpire will be appointed alternatively by each side (home team first) who will:
 - (i) keep the score
 - (ii) rule on any dispute which may arise during play.The umpire's ruling will be **final**.
- (f) All matches will consist of 18 games as per Rule 13b. Each game will win one point. The League Table order will be dictated by the total number of games won.
- (g) Visiting teams shall abide by the playing rules and byelaws of the home Club providing these do not contravene the Rules of the League, and it shall be incumbent upon the home players to declare to the visitors before the match such rules or byelaws which are likely to affect play.
- (h) All disputes or appeals on any matter shall be submitted in writing or by e-mail within seven days of the event to the Executive Committee through the League Secretary.
- (i) Clothing worn on court must be recognised badminton sports clothing. Any player contravening this rule will be reported and liable to disciplinary action.

14. **FIXTURES** Matches shall be played as set out in the official League Fixture lists. No match shall be rearranged unless the room of the home team becomes unavailable OR with the agreement of both Captains, the Results Secretary to be notified immediately by both the home and away teams of any such changes. **Failure to do so within 7 days of the original date will result in a fine of ten pounds (£10).** Any team unable to fulfil a fixture will score no points, but the team conceded to will score 18 points. A team which does not turn up for a match fixture on more than one occasion and cannot satisfy the League Executive Committee that there is a very good reason, shall be placed at the bottom of their division for relegation at the end of the season. All match results during the season with that team are to be disregarded when it comes to deciding the promotion and relegation positions. All fixtures to be completed by the end of April, or at the discretion of the Results Secretary. Match results shall be submitted on the official score sheet by the home team so as to reach the Results Secretary within seven days of the match in question having been played. **Teams not complying with this rule shall, on submission of the 2nd and subsequent late score sheets, be fined £10. For the 3rd and subsequent late score sheets all points scored by the home team in those matches will be forfeited.**
- Clubs with more than one team in any division must play all matches between these teams before 30th November in any season.

15. **LEAGUE TABLES** In the event of a tie on points between two or more teams, their positions in the League shall be decided in alphabetical order. In the FINAL LEAGUE TABLE in the event of the total number of points being equal, the placings shall be decided only by the results of the matches played between the teams concerned. The teams will be placed in order of the games won against each other and where these are equal, by the differences in goals scored, for and against.

16. **PROMOTION & RELEGATION** The two teams finishing top of any division shall normally be promoted to a higher division. The two teams finishing bottom of any division shall normally be relegated to the next lower division. If the number of teams in a division is to be increased, then the relative playing strengths of the teams that would normally be relegated and the teams finishing outside of the automatic promotion places of the division below, shall be compared. The assessed stronger teams shall then be placed in the restructured division. If, after the agreed formation of divisions for the season, a team is withdrawn or has its playing record voided, that team shall be considered to have finished bottom of the division and fill an automatic relegation position.
17. **COURTS** It shall be incumbent upon the home team to have all lines clearly marked before each match commences and to see the net is in a good state of repair. In marking out the court the measurements laid down by the Laws of Badminton shall be used. If this is impossible, a close approximation should be attempted.
18. **REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS** Each club must register with the Results Secretary any player likely to be called upon to play for the Club in any League match. Registrations, in writing, shall be in the hands of the Results Secretary not later than the day before the Club's first match. **Only players available to participate in at least one of the first three league matches should be registered for that team. If not available for any reason, they should be nominated as a reserve for the team they would be selected for, until they are available to fill a permanent position.** Failure to comply with the spirit of this law may result in the reduction of points. Thereafter, no player shall play in any match unless his/her registration is in the hands of the Results Secretary

7 days prior to the first match in which the player is likely to play. Only bona fide Club members are eligible for registration, outside players cannot be brought in on an ad hoc basis so as to influence promotion or relegation. No player may be registered after 28th February in any season. No player may be registered by two or more member clubs at the same time. Players may only change registration in the season with permission of the Executive Committee. On all these points appeal may be made to the Executive Committee through the Results Secretary.

19. **CLUBS WITH MORE THAN ONE TEAM** Such clubs' teams shall be named, in order of playing strength, 'A', 'B', 'C', etc. at the commencement of each playing season. i.e. before any League fixtures are fulfilled. Clubs shall submit to the league Results Secretary a list of players who will normally play for each of their teams as entered for the League Competition, and players so registered shall not play for any other team during that season with these exceptions:

- (a) Any player may play as a reserve for a higher team.
- (b) If a player misses 3 consecutive matches the Results Secretary must be notified of the reason. The Results Secretary may decide that a permanent replacement be promoted. All reserves must be nominated for teams according to their standard. Failure to comply with the spirit of this law may result in the deduction of points.
- (c) If there is a re-selection, the Results Secretary shall be informed of the names of the players promoted and demoted and these changes shall stand for a period of not less than 3 league matches.
- (d) The Executive Committee have the right to regulate the interchange of players between teams and the use of reserves in the interest of fair competition.

20. All clubs must pay league fees by 31st October in any season. Failure to pay by this date will lead to an immediate fine of £10 per team. Failure to pay by 30th November of that season will lead to further sanctions. Failure to comply may result in expulsion from the League.

Subscriptions for 2012/2013 Season shall be £35 per Senior Team (includes 6 handbooks); Existing Associate Members £5; New Associate Members £10; Veteran's League £5 per team. Junior Teams - Free.

21. **FIXTURE MEETING** A meeting to arrange fixtures shall be held in July each year. Each Club shall send one representative per team to the fixture meeting.

A Club failing to do so shall be fined at the rate of £20 per team not represented. This fine to be paid before 1st September. If not, the team(s) will be expelled. The Executive Committee will consider waiving this fine in exceptional circumstances.

22. **VETERANS LEAGUE REGULATIONS**

1. Players must be "bona-fide" members of a Club playing in the Stockport and District Badminton League.
2. Players will be eligible to participate on their 45th Birthday.
3. The League is for players of Division 3 and below only.
4. Clubs not having sufficient players to enable them to enter a team may use a maximum of 2 substitute players, namely 1 lady and 1 gentleman only. These players must comply with reg. 1.
5. Clubs should register their players with the Veteran League organiser before their first match.
6. Each team shall consist of two ladies and two gentlemen.
7. Each match shall consist of twelve games, these games being, two ladies, two mens and eight mixed. Each mixed couple will be named as couples one and two and will remain in these combinations for the mixed games. Each game shall be to 15 aces up, no setting allowed.

8. The shuttles used shall be those currently approved by the League, unless an alternative agreement has been reached between the Captains.

