**League & Match Rules (July 2019)**

**1. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

Competitions shall be open to all Clubs affiliated to the Association in accordance with the following Rules and the Laws and Regulations of Badminton. Competitions shall be held annually for Men's Doubles, Ladies' Doubles, Mixed Doubles and Composite Doubles. The Committee shall have power to arrange these in Divisions numbered 1, 2, 3 etc., according to the number of entries.

In the event of Challenge Cups and/or other Trophies being purchased or presented for such competitions, the Honorary Treasurer of the Association for the time being shall be, for all intents and purposes, the legal owner of such Challenge Cups and/or Trophies, in trust for the Association.

Clubs holding trophies will be responsible for those trophies. If a trophy is not available for presentation at the Annual General Meeting the cost of replacement shall be borne by the Club currently holding that trophy. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, the Committee may decide at each AGM to retain such Trophies within the Association for safe keeping.

**2.**  **ENTRIES**

A Club wishing to enter a league/competition shall send in its entry on the Association's official form, together with an entrance fee as fixed by the Committee for each Competition, to the Honorary Secretary of the Association no later than the date fixed by the Committee and circulated to the Clubs.

No Club is eligible to compete until it has paid its subscription to the Association together with all arrears (if any).

**3.** **QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS**

The qualification to play for a Club shall be a bona fide full playing member of such a Club at least seven days prior to the playing of each tie.

A player so qualified may only play for one, but not necessarily the same Club in each of the Men's, Ladies, Mixed or Composite Doubles competitions during any one season.

Any competing Club which includes in the team a player or players not qualified in accordance with this rule shall award each rubber, played by that player(s), to the opposition 21-0; 21-0.

At its discretion, the committee reserves the right to further deduct 1 point per breach from the team’s aggregate score at the end of the season if it deems it appropriate.

**4.** **LIMITATION OF PLAYERS / NOMINATION OF TEAMS**

Any Club entering two teams in the Men's and/or Ladies' and/or Mixed Doubles and/or Composite Doubles shall send to the Honorary Secretary the names of its first team and in the event of three teams being entered the names or its first and second teams and so on, before any such match is played.

No player nominated for a First Men’s. Ladies’, Mixed or Composite Doubles team respectively shall be eligible to play in the same Competition for a Second team of the like denomination (Men's. Ladies' or Mixed, Composite Doubles (as the case may be): and no player nominated for the First or Second of such teams shall be eligible to play for a Third team of like denomination, except at the discretion of the Committee on written application to the Honorary Secretary. If appropriate team nominations are not received by the time the first match is played, the players who did play will all become nominated players for that team.

In addition, no player shall be eligible to play for a Second or Third team if he or she shall have played that season for a higher team, in the same Competition on more than two occasions. If by prior agreement with the opposing Club an ineligible player is played to make up the team then all rubbers played which includes the ineligible player shall be forfeited to the opposing Club 21‑0; 21‑0.

All teams playing in Composite divisions must play in order of playing strength: L1 stronger than L2; M1 to M4 in decreasing order of playing strength.

**5. PROMOTION**

Winners of Divisions 2 and 3 etc. shall in the following season change places with the bottom Club of the next higher Division.

Two teams from the same Club are allowed in any one Division on condition that their two matches are completed before playing matches against any other Club.

**6. DATES**

The Committee shall arrange the dates within which the several rounds and/or sections shall be completed and shall have power to scratch any Club which may fail to play off within the time limits as fixed.

**7. MATCHES**

The order of play shall be mutually agreed between the opposing Captains before play commences: in the event of a disagreement the visitors shall have the choice.

If the Hall in which a tie is being played is not available after a certain hour and the tie in question cannot be fully completed the team which leads on completed rubbers, or if necessary owing to the tie being level in this respect on the Games (or further, if necessary on the points) won in complete rubbers, shall be adjudged the winners of the tie, always provided that two full rounds have been completed.

If one team defaults by arriving late or not having pairs ready when games are due to be played, then the team responsible for the delays must concede any unplayed games to their opponent if the hall hire time expires before the match can be finished.

If both teams default by being late or not having pairs ready when games are due to be played, then if matches have to be stopped because the hall hire has expired the score shall stand as at close of play.

No change shall be made in the composition of the teams engaged in a tie after the start of play.

**8. NOTIFYING RESULTS**

Both the Honorary Match Secretary of the home Club and the away Club or a nominated person (e.g.: Captains) shall send a copy of the match card, signed by both home and visiting Captains to the Results Secretary nominated by the Committee to deal with the Inter-Club competitions within 7 days of the tie. Results should be sent by email to southforelandresults@hotmail.com,) as an attachment.

**9. DISPUTES**

All questions of eligibility, qualifications of competitors, interpretations of the Rules, or otherwise in relation to the Competitions shall be referred to the Committee, whose decision shall be final.

Any dispute arising between Clubs in the Competitions shall be referred to the arbitration or the Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on both Clubs.

Should either of the Clubs in connection with any dispute or protest have a member or members on the Committee, the said member or members shall not be eligible to vote on the Committee while such a dispute or protest is being considered.

**10. LEAGUE MATCHES**

In sections conducted on the league basis, each Club shall play home and away ties with every other Club in its section, and the home Club shall bear all match expenses or as otherwise amicably agreed.

All fixtures (both home & away) must be communicated to the League Match Secretary 7 days prior to the Club’s first match.
Changing the date of a fixture after the fixtures have been lodged with the Association can only be made at the discretion of the Home Club.
Matches cancelled by the Visiting Team should be conceded to the Home Team unless an alternative fixture can be agreed.
In the event of a venue being unavailable for unforeseen reasons on the night, the Home Match Secretary should offer alternative dates to the Visiting Club. If the matter remains unresolved the Home Team must concede. A Score sheet showing any conceded matches should still be sent to the League Match Secretary.
Notification of a rearranged match must be made 3 days prior to the fixture. The League Match Secretary should be notified of all rearrangements.

A visiting team which fails to honour a match or which calls for a re-arrangement after courts have been booked should consider contributing towards the cost of courts.

**11. SCORE SHEETS**

Please PRINT the Captains name on the score sheets to facilitate the process of any queries regarding the match score sheet discrepancies.

Please give full names of players as listed on and submitted to the South Foreland League and Badminton England i.e. Samantha not Sam; Mohamed not Mo.