

NORTH SOMERSET

BADMINTON

LEAGUE

HANDBOOK

2025-2026

LEAGUE OFFICERS

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Team Divisional WINNERS 2024/25

MIXED DIVISION 1 - Chew Valley A
MIXED DIVISION 2 - Winscombe

LEVELS DIVISION 1 - Uphill A
LEVELS DIVISION 2 - Clevedon Feathers
LEVELS DIVISION 3 - Henbury
LEVELS DIVISION 4 - Uphill Juniors

LADIES DIVISION 1 - Holly Lane

Individual WINNERS 2024/25 (most individual game points collected in the season)

MIXED DIVISION 1 - Penny Scott (Frys)
MIXED DIVISION 2 - Eva Mamman (Uphill Juniors)

LEVELS DIVISION 1 - Olliver Dormer (Winscombe A)
LEVELS DIVISION 2 - Richard Ridge (Clevedon Feathers)
LEVELS DIVISION 3 - Terrence Macquart (Henbury)
LEVELS DIVISION 4 - Leo Jacon (Uphill Juniors)

LADIES DIVISION 1 - Eva Mamman (Uphill)

RULES

1. **Name:** The League shall be called the North Somerset Badminton League (NSBL)
2. **Boundary:** The boundary shall follow the River Avon until it meets the A37. Then to the west of the A37 as far as Shepton Mallet and then to the north of the A37 continuing north of the B3139 to the coast at Burnham on Sea. Any club outside these boundaries can be a member of NSBL at the discretion of the committee.
3. **Member Clubs:**
 - a. All member clubs shall be affiliated to the Avon or Somerset Badminton Associations. All member clubs shall have a club and match venue that shall lie within the boundary, as defined in Rule 2.
 - b. All club members shall appear on the BE database as members of the NSBL club for which they are playing, even though they may already be registered via another club / area / county. Their BE affiliation number must be given when registering players initially with NSBL. All league players need to appear on the BE database as 'paid' by the end of September to be eligible players.
 - c. Playing a player not registered correctly according to rules 3a or 3b in league matches will lead to the loss of the points for the rubber that such a player has participated in, in addition to any penalties decided by the league committee according to rule 18.
4. **Committee:** The affairs shall be managed by a committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, League Secretary, Match Secretary and Treasurer.
5. **Annual General Meeting:**
 - a. The AGM of the League and the League Fixtures meeting will take place in September of each year to, elect officers for the ensuing year, to arrange fixtures for the coming season and to transact any other business that may be necessary. The League Secretary shall give at least 21 days clear notice of such a meeting, together with the matters to be discussed. All fixtures arranged shall be completed by March 31st of the following year.
 - b. Each club shall send at least one representative to the AGM. Only one vote per club shall be allowed on issues taken. The League Committee shall be empowered to expel from the League any Club that is not represented at the AGM. Such a Club may apply in writing and by representation at the following A.G.M for re-election to the League's bottom division.
 - c. Clubs shall declare to the fixture's secretary at least three days prior to the fixtures meeting the number of teams they are entering into the NSBL for the coming season.
6. **Affiliation Fee:** A League affiliation fee shall be reviewed annually at the AGM and shall be paid to the Treasurer by October 30th each year.
7. **League Matches:** Each Club shall play matches home and away against every Club in the division. Feather shuttles are to be used in all matches.
8. **Registration of Players:** Players are deemed to be registered for club representation, if they fulfil all the following criteria:
 - a. A player to have a current and paid-up membership of Badminton England (this noted as ACTIVE for a player on the Badminton England database).
 - b. A player is to appear within the club "profile" on the Badminton England database for the club they represent, for a match to be played, a minimum of 24 hours prior to the said match, unless there is some mitigating circumstance for which the NSBL committee will rule.
 - c. All club players appear in the club "profile" for which they want to represent or play for, and appear ACTIVE, on the badminton England database on or before 31st January. Any additional player added to a club "profile" on the Badminton England database after this date will be ineligible to play in the league.
9. **Eligibility of Players:** All team members shall be bona-fide members of their Club. Where individual players are members of more than one club within the North Somerset Badminton League, they are eligible, during anyone season, to play in the mixed league for one club and the level doubles for another.
10. **Composition of League Teams:** A mixed league team shall consist of 3 ladies and 3 men. The match shall be over 9 rubbers, 3 to be mixed doubles, 3 to be ladies doubles and 3 men's doubles. The mixed pairs shall be arranged as 1st, 2nd and 3rd on estimated strength and each pair shall oppose its opposite number. The order of play shall be 1st, 2nd and 3rd mixed; 1st & 2nd ladies; 1st & 2nd mens; 1st & 3rd ladies; 1st & 3rd mens; 2nd & 3rd ladies; 2nd & 3rd mens. This order of play may be changed by the mutual agreement of both captains prior to the match. A lady may substitute for a man, but not vice versa.

11. Nomination of Team Players:

- a. Clubs with more than one team shall nominate their team players, except for their lowest team, when registering players under Rule 9. Non-nominated players are deemed to be players of the club's lowest placed team. Team players must be nominated for teams according to their estimated strength (ie the best 3 men and best 3 ladies for the A team, the next best for the B team etc). Names within a team are also to be submitted in order of estimated strength. A list of all team nominations will be sent to all clubs by the secretary as soon as it becomes available. A lower team player may play three matches in the higher teams. Having played four matches in the higher teams, he/she may not return to a lower team in any circumstances, including those defined in Rule 11c.
- b. A higher team player can play in a lower team provided he/she has not played more than half of the total league matches for the higher team that season. Having played in a lower team he/she cannot play again in any higher team that season. There is an exception to this rule where the appearance for the lower team is covered by Rule 11c.
- c. Where the club's lowest team is unable to field a full team, each player from the next lowest team may play down on one occasion during the season without penalty or loss of place in their normal team. This option may only be exercised when no other players are available to play in the bottom team. Only one player may play down on any one occasion and this option may not be exercised after 31st January in any season. Prior approval must be obtained from either the League Secretary or the League Match Secretary.

12. Fixtures: ' All league fixtures shall be played. NO WALKOVERS are allowed i.e. if one team consists of less than 5 players. All matches should be played by the end of the season.

- a. If a team is unable to field at least 5 players in the mixed league / 3 players in the levels league, then that match should be postponed or, if it has commenced, may have to be replayed. The offending team will normally be penalised by the deduction of 5 points in the mixed league and 3 points in the levels league. These penalties will be applied at the committee discretion.
- b. Where notice is too short for the home team to avoid incurring the court costs, the offending team shall pay all the home team's additional court costs. Postponements will only otherwise be allowed if the intended venue becomes unavailable or weather conditions make travelling dangerous. In this case, where notice is too short for the home team to avoid incurring the court costs, the away team shall contribute half of the home team's additional costs. Under both conditions, the home team is to offer two dates to play the re-arranged match, one of which must be accepted. The home team will inform the Match Secretary of such a postponement within 48 hours and of the re-arranged date within 14 days of the postponed match date. All postponed matches must be completed within two weeks of the end of the season. If clubs cannot agree on the postponement or alternative dates, or if a re-arranged match cannot be played within two weeks of the end of the season, then the matter should be referred to the League Secretary.
- c. Where two teams from the same club are in the same division in a section of the league, all matches for these teams to be completed, in season, before 31st December.
- d. Postponements are allowed, without penalty, if the following criteria is strictly followed:
 - i. Notification to both the League Match Sec and the opposing team a full 4 weeks or more before the match is scheduled to be played.
 - ii. 2 weeks prior to either the new or original match date, whichever is earlier, the new and agreed match date to be advised by both teams to the League Match Sec.
 - iii. If no agreement between clubs can be achieved, or a new match date not notified to the League Match Sec within 2 weeks prior to the original match date then the original scheduled match date cannot be amended.
 - iv. There is an assumed gift period, up to 30th September, where matches can reasonably be amended, without the necessary 2 week notice period mentioned above.

13. Late Arrivals: If a player arrives more than 15 minutes after the starting time as indicated in the League Fixtures Book AND subsequently delays commencement of a scheduled game, the opposing captain may claim the relevant rubber(s) which cannot be played. However, an agreement can be made between the team captains at any time before or during the match as to a mutually acceptable re-order of play. Once agreed, this order of play must be adhered to. Furthermore, should any player leave the match and/or not be available to play when required, the opposing captain may claim the relevant rubber(s), too.

14. Results: The results on the official score sheet shall be forwarded to the League Match Secretary by the home club within 3 days of a League match.

- 15. League Positions:** League positions shall be decided based on 1 point for each rubber won, with 2 bonus points per match being added to the winning team's total. The losing team will also gain a point for each rubber won. In the event of two teams having the same number of points then matches won will decide. If they are still level, then (a) games won followed by (b) games lost will decide.
- 16. Complaints:** Any club having a complaint to register shall do so in writing, within 14 days of the match being played.
- 17. Rule Violations:** Complaints and Rule Violations shall be judged, and penalties decided by the League Committee comprising the League Officers plus, if deemed appropriate, one representative from each club in the relevant division. The decisions thus reached shall be final.
- 18. New Applications:** The closing date for applications for existing member clubs to include an additional team or teams or for new clubs to join the League shall be up to 10 days before the AGM / Fixtures Meeting in September. Online payment will be due by the same deadline
- 19. Rule Change:** No rule shall be made, amended, or altered except with the consent of at least two-thirds of the voting representatives of the clubs present at the A.G.M.
- 20. Extraordinary General Meeting:** An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called by the League Secretary at the request of 25% of the member clubs. 21 days notice shall be given prior to the meeting date.
- 21. Restriction for the number of club teams allowed per league division:** No club is allowed to have more than 2 teams in any one division, except for the lowest division in any league.

LEVELS/LADIES LEAGUES

These leagues will run under the current NSBL rules with the following amendments:

- 22.** A league team shall consist of 4 men/ladies. The match shall be decided over 6 rubbers. The players shall be arranged as 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th on estimated strength, and each player shall oppose his/her opposite number. The order of play shall be 1&2 v 1&2, 3&4 v 3&4, 1&3 v 1&3, 2&4 v 2&4, 1&4 v 1&4, 2&3 v 2&3.
- 23.** This order of play may be changed by the mutual agreement of both captains prior to the match.
- 24.** (Paragraphs 1 and 2) All league fixtures will be played. NO WALKOVERS are allowed (i.e. If one team consists of less than 3 players). If a team is unable to field at least 3 players then that match should be postponed or, if it has commenced, it may have to be replayed. The offending team will normally be penalised by the deduction of 5 points.
- 25.** League positions shall be decided based on 1 point for each rubber won. There will be no bonus points for winning the overall match. In the event of 2 teams having the same number of points, then matches won will decide. If they are still level, then (a) games won followed by (b) games lost will decide.

Unfinished Matches — Guidance

Every effort should be made to ensure matches are finished completely. If this proves impossible for a valid reason (e.g. light failure, dangerous courts, expiry of court time etc) and no team has won the match, then it should be completed as soon as possible, the home team being responsible for arranging a mutually acceptable date. The same players must finish the match.

If a Club has won the match but one or two rubbers are still outstanding, it is still desirable to complete the match as soon as possible. However, Clubs may mutually agree to wait to see if either Club needs the un-played rubber(s) later in the season. If this proves to be the case, the outstanding rubber(s) must be played with the original players. If Clubs agree to delay, they must both accept the risk that it may not be possible to play the game at a later date due to long-term injury etc. If a player is injured and unable to continue, their outstanding rubbers will be forfeited.

Date for next AGM / Fixtures meeting: Tuesday 8th September 2026