

Oxfordshire Badminton League Rules 2024/25

A. GENERAL

1. Play is to be in accordance with these Oxfordshire Badminton League (OBL) rules, augmented by the Laws of Badminton as adopted by BADMINTON England, with the exception of the 3 Disciplines (3D) and 5 Disciplines (5D) scoring system. The home club should ensure that a copy of the OBL rules is available during the match.
2. Within the rules, "OBL Secretary" is the person elected as General Secretary for the League and "League Fixtures Secretary" refers to the individual(s) administering the 3D, 5D and doubles leagues. The doubles league comprises mixed, men's and women's disciplines.
3. It is the responsibility of every club to ensure that its players are familiar with the OBL rules. Infringement of these rules may render players, teams or clubs liable to suspension from the League. Any disputes will be dealt with according to the APPEAL section.
4. The annual subscription per club and entry fees per team shall be agreed annually at the AGM and are payable not later than the Fixture meeting each year to the Treasurer. Should a team withdraw during the season no fees shall be returnable.
5. All clubs are required to send a representative to the AGM. Failure to do so will incur an additional charge of £10 payable with the entry fee for the forthcoming season.
6. Trophies belong to the League and are on loan to clubs/individuals from their presentation until their return (by 1 March of the following season). Trophies are to be signed for and a record kept of holders by the OBL Secretary. They are to be maintained in good condition and the League reserves the right to charge clubs for the repair of any damage. Engraving costs are to be borne by the League, with engraving normally being arranged by the League for all trophies at the same time.
7. Any point not covered by these rules will be dealt with by the League Committee, hereafter called the Committee.
8. In exceptional circumstances the Committee has the authority to interpret these rules in the best interest of paragraph 2 of the Oxfordshire Badminton League Constitution (ie "The object of the League is to promote interest in, and improve the standard of, badminton in Oxfordshire, through the organisation of competitive badminton.")

B. LENGTH OF SEASON

1. Matches may be played from 1 October or earlier if teams agree.
2. Matches are to be completed by 31 March.

C. SHUTTLES/COURTS

1. All matches must be played with hide covered, cork based shuttlecocks provided by the home club. Feather shuttles must be used in all 3D and 5D matches and all Division 1 matches for mixed, men's & women's.
2. A shuttle hitting the roof of a hall is a fault. If a shuttle strikes a beam or fittings, this may be defined as a let or fault by the home club and should be advised as such before the start of play.

D. FIXTURES/REPORTING RESULTS

1. The League Secretaries will be responsible for detailing scores and league positions to member clubs (including on the League website) and for giving periodic details to the local press.
2. Players' names will be submitted for use in any reporting unless permission is withheld in the start of season return that must be received by the OBL Secretary by 1 October. If a player's circumstances change (with regard to reporting) during the season, the OBL Secretary must be informed so that they can inform the League Fixtures Secretary.
3. If a team withdraws at any point in the season they will forfeit any remaining matches and be shown as "withdrawn" in the league tables. All results for matches played will be expunged.
4. The home club shall supply a result sheet for every home match including cancelled matches. The home club is responsible for its accurate completion (dates, full names and scores for all matches and, for played matches, the signatures of both captains) and forwarding it to the League Fixtures Secretary to be received within 10 days of the match. After 21 days from the date of the match, unless the League Secretary receives written notification of a mistake within this period, player names and scores will not be amended, except by the League Committee for any infringement of the Rules. For cancelled matches, the reason for the cancellation is to be shown on the front of the score sheet. Where score sheets are submitted electronically the home club is to retain the hard copy until the AGM.
5. It is the responsibility of the Fixtures Secretary of a club to ensure that results are submitted on time. If a club fails to send in a result on more than one occasion within the time limit, a £10 fine may be imposed. Failure to comply on further occasions may result in disqualification from the League.
 - a) For 3D and doubles leagues: Each team in a division shall play matches against each other team in that division at home and away. Clubs will be responsible for arranging their own matches.
 - b) Where a club has two or more teams in the same division, one match between those teams shall be played before any matches are played by those teams against any other club's teams in the same division with the return match being played by the end of the last Sunday in November. The penalty for not doing so will be that both teams have a zero score imposed for any inter-club matches that contravene the rule.
 - c) A copy of the club's fixture list for each team is to be given to the League Fixtures Secretary before leaving the fixture meeting. This listing will be in the format prescribed in the proforma provided by the League Fixtures Secretary and may be submitted in either electronic or hard copy. Fixture updates for any cancelled or rescheduled matches must also be forwarded to the League Fixtures Secretary.
6. For 5D league:
 - a) Fixtures are to be decided at the 5D fixtures meeting. The number of teams per division will be confirmed at the fixtures meeting.
 - b) Where there is an even number of teams in a division then, where there are eight or fewer teams, all teams will play at the same time on the same match night at the same venue. There will be one home night per season which the club will pay for, with one non-host club. The Committee is to ensure that all clubs are made non-host using a fair basis of rotation and that the non-host club will be charged with their share of the Division's court hire for the season using the average cost of court hire of all the host clubs for that season. Where there are an odd number of teams in a

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division then, where there are nine or fewer teams, there will be one home night per season which the club will pay for and all except one designated team will play at the same time on the same night at the same venue (ie no non-host club).

- c) The host club is asked to provide a non-playing official to act as Referee in the event of any dispute on the evening. The Referee is to strictly apply these rules. The League Fixtures Secretary will make every effort to be available by telephone on Match nights to assist the Referee if required. The Referee's decision will be final on the match night. If a club disagrees with the decision of the Referee on a match night they shall fulfil the fixture in accordance with the Referee's ruling.
- d) Where a club has more than one team in any division, the fixture between those teams shall be played randomly within the first three rounds of fixtures.

E. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

1. Only male players may play in men's events, only female players may play in women's events and a mixed doubles pair shall consist of one male player and one female player.
2. A complete 3D team shall consist of two men and two women.
3. A complete 5D team shall consist of between two and four men and between two and four women.
4. A complete mixed team shall consist of three women and three men.
5. A complete men's team shall consist of six men.
6. A complete women's team shall consist of four women.

F. QUALIFICATION TO PLAY/NOMINATIONS/RESTRICTIONS ON PLAYERS AND TEAMS

1. A player, before representing a club, must be affiliated by that club to BADMINTON England (or for a University club, affiliated to British Universities & Colleges Sport) and be a member of that club. The League Fixtures Secretary will obtain a list of affiliated players and will check affiliations for eligible players on a periodic basis.
2. A player shall not play for more than one club in a particular discipline (ie 3D or 5D or mixed or men's or women's) but may play for different clubs in different disciplines (eg may play 3D for one club and any/all of 5D/mixed/men's/women's for other club(s)). Failure to comply with this rule will result in the offending player's rubbers being forfeited for all matches played. Where a club withdraws from a league during the season then this rule may be waived at the discretion of the Committee.
3. Any club entering more than one team in a discipline must nominate the players of their 'A' and all other teams, apart from the lowest, to the League Fixtures Secretary, before the match is played by any of the 'A', 'B', 'C' etc teams and these players shall not be eligible to play in the club 'B' or respectively lower teams. The 'A' team should be the strongest team, the 'B' team the next strongest and so on in descending order of strength (see also Rule L1b regarding team allocation and renaming). The League Secretaries may return a nomination if they feel that the nominations are not in the spirit of the game. In the event of a team not being registered, the first team played will be the nominated team. The nominated players for a team will be displayed on the website. Any player who does not wish to be named on the website for reasons of privacy should ensure their club notifies the OBL Secretary (see FIXTURES/REPORTING RESULTS, rule D2).
4. No player nominated for a team may play for a lower registered team. No player shall play more than twice for a higher registered team or teams without becoming ineligible to play for the

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original lower team. (For example, if a 'C' team player plays up once for the 'A' team and twice for the 'B' team then they can no longer play for the 'C' team and should they play twice more for the 'A' team they are ineligible for the 'B' team.) Should they do so, those rubbers will be awarded to the opposing team.

5. It is not in the spirit of the League to field a player of a higher standard to win at any point during the season. Failure to observe this rule will mean that a club is entitled to appeal to the OBL League Fixtures Secretary if they feel that there has been a significant breach of the fair play policy, asking that the offending player's rubbers be awarded to the non-offending team (ie in 3D and 5D, awarded 25-0, 25-0 or, in doubles, 21-0, 21-0). The OBL Committee may, as part of its end of season review, amend the results of matches deemed to have contravened the spirit of this rule, with the penalised club having a right of appeal.
6. For 5D only, no player shall be permitted to play for more than one team on any one evening.
7. No club shall have more than two teams in a Division.

G. MATCH SCORING

1. Player's forenames and surnames must be entered onto the score sheet at the start of the match. No player may be substituted once their rubber has started. The names can only be changed if a player is expected to turn up but does not and notification is received before their anticipated game. For 5D, names can also be changed if a player is injured during the evening but all name changes must be agreed by the Referee before the game takes place.
2. For 3D:
 - a) A match will consist of 6 rubbers with each rubber being 2 games to 25 points using rally points scoring system, excluding setting.
 - b) There is a maximum of 300 points available for a team in one match and the match result will depend on the number of points scored, not the number of rubbers or games won.
 - c) A conceded match will be scored as 0 for the conceding team and an initial 300 points for the opposing team. At the end of the season a scoring adjustment will be calculated for each non-offending team. This calculation excludes the affected fixture and comprises: (the average points scored by the non-offending team for the whole season MINUS the average points scored by the offending team for the whole season) / 2) PLUS the average points scored by the non-offending team for the whole season.
3. For 5D:
 - a) A match will consist of 5 rubbers, with each rubber being 2 games to 25 points using rally points scoring system, excluding setting.
 - b) There is a maximum of 250 points available for a team in one match and the match result will depend on the number of points scored, not the number of rubbers or games won.
 - c) A conceded match will be scored as 0 for the conceding team and an initial 250 points for the opposing team. At the end of the season a scoring adjustment will be calculated for each non-offending team. This calculation excludes the affected fixture and comprises: (the average points scored by the non-offending team for the whole season MINUS the average points scored by the offending team for the whole season) / 2) PLUS the average points scored by the non-offending team for the whole season.
4. For mixed and men's doubles leagues:

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- a) A rubber will consist of the best of three games to 21 points, using the rally points scoring system, including setting.
 - b) A team shall gain three points for winning a match and each team shall gain one point for each rubber won.
 - c) A conceded match will be forfeited to the offended team by 12 points to 0.
 - d) If both teams turn up with only two pairs, the third rubber (3 v 3) will not be scored. If the match is drawn, with each team playing and winning two rubbers, the three points for winning the match will not be awarded and the match will be scored 4–4 (being the two played rubbers and two conceded rubbers).
5. For women's doubles leagues :
- a) A rubber will consist of the best of three games to 21 points using the rally points scoring system, including setting.
 - b) A team shall gain two points for winning a match and each team shall gain one point for each rubber won. A drawn match of three rubbers each will be scored 4–4.
 - c) A conceded match will be forfeited to the offended team by 8 points to 0.
 - d) If both teams turn up with only one pair the match must be rearranged.

H. ORDER OF PLAY

1. For 3D, the order of play (which can only be changed with the agreement of both captains) will be:
 - men's doubles
 - women's doubles
 - home first mixed pair v away first mixed pair
 - home second mixed pair v away second mixed pair
 - home second mixed pair v away first mixed pair
 - home first mixed pair v away second mixed pair
2. For 5D, the order of play (which can only be changed with the agreement of both captains) will be:
 - 1 men's doubles
 - 1 women's doubles
 - 1 men's singles
 - 1 women's singles
 - 1 mixed doubles
3. For men's and mixed doubles leagues, the order of play (which can only be changed with the agreement of both captains) will be:
Visiting team pairing: 123 123 123 v Home team pairing: 123 231 312
4. For women's doubles league, the order of play (which can only be changed with the agreement of both captains) will be:
 - home women's 1 & 2 v away women's 1 & 2
 - home women's 3 & 4 v away women's 3 & 4
 - home women's 1 & 2 v away women's 3 & 4
 - home women's 3 & 4 v away women's 1 & 2
 - home women's 1 & 3 v away women's 1 & 3
 - home women's 2 & 4 v away women's 2 & 4

I. POSTPONEMENT/CANCELLATION OF MATCHES

1. Once fixtures have been arranged, up until 30 September a club may request that scheduled matches be rearranged for any reason but a club is not obliged to agree to the proposed changes. From 1 October, clubs are expected not to request either postponement or cancellation of matches except under exceptional circumstances.
2. Non availability of a particular player(s) will not constitute a reason for postponing or cancelling a match. Postponement may be allowed for non availability of a venue or inclement weather (defined as the local travel news advising people not to travel).
3. Teams are expected to make every effort to fulfil a fixture. If a team cannot fulfil a fixture then notice must be given and, if any additional court expenses are incurred, they are to be borne by the offending club.
 - a) For 5D, notification should reach the League Fixtures Secretary at least 7 days before the date of the match (to enable the League to inform the intended opposition) and the team will concede the fixture.
 - b) For 3D and doubles leagues, notification of postponement or cancellation of a fixture should reach the League Fixtures Secretary and the opposing Club's Match Secretary at least 14 days before the date of the match. The teams are both expected to make every effort to rearrange a suitable date for the match before the end of the season but if a mutually acceptable date cannot be agreed the Committee will arbitrate. Except in exceptional circumstances any team cancelling a match less than 14 days before the match will concede the fixture.
4. The required communication between clubs for postponed or cancelled matches is:
 - a) If a match is postponed, in addition to notifying the League Fixtures Secretary prior to the original fixture date, the home club's Fixtures Secretary must provide the League Fixtures Secretary with evidence of the email agreement that was made between the clubs. This needs to show that it was agreed to postpone the original match, the reason for the postponement, when the agreement was made and between which named representatives of each club. When the fixture has been rescheduled, the written agreement between the clubs must be forwarded by the home club's Fixtures Secretary to the League Fixtures Secretary. In both instances, the email to the League Fixtures Secretary must be copied to the opposing club's Fixtures Secretary.
 - b) If a match is conceded, in addition to specifying the reason on the front of the scoresheet (per D4), the home club's Fixtures Secretary must also provide the League Fixtures Secretary with evidence of the email agreement that was made between the clubs. This needs to show that it was agreed to record the match as conceded, when the agreement was made and between which named representatives of each club and must be copied to the opposing club's Fixtures Secretary.

J. LATE STARTS

1. It is the responsibility of the home/host club to ensure that sufficient court time is booked to complete a match under normal conditions, eg barring power cuts etc. The court(s) available and start time will apply as listed in the start of season Club listing for that season. For 5D, three hours' court-time is to be booked for each match night.
2. With the exception of the 5D, no player arriving more than one hour after the commencement of play shall be allowed to take part without the consent of the opposing captain. Any fixture where

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play has not started one hour after the agreed starting time may be claimed by the non-defaulting team.

3. For 3D and doubles leagues, after 30 minutes have elapsed from the time the match is due to start, any pair not ready to play when called shall be deemed to have lost that rubber, unless it is mutually agreed that it will be played at the end of the match, should time permit. (If there is subsequently insufficient time then that rubber will be scored as an unplayed rubber rather than as per the TIME CONSTRAINED/UNFINISHED MATCHES section.) With the agreement of both captains, another rubber may be started, but once started shall not be interrupted. Any unplayed rubber(s) are to be awarded to the non-offending team (for 3D, 25-0/25-0 and for doubles, 21-0/21-0).
4. For 5D, if a team member is delayed in arriving for their game the next rubber in sequence can be played. If they have not arrived by the conclusion of that rubber, the game in which they should have played is awarded to the opposing team, at the Referee's discretion.

K. TIME CONSTRAINED/UNFINISHED MATCHES

1. The reason for game(s) being conceded is to be noted on the scoresheet and an email sent to the OBL League Fixtures Secretary within 10 days, copied to the away team Fixtures Secretary, containing details of the match (i.e. discipline/division, date, venue, teams, reason(s) for conceding and the score for the conceded games).
2. The score achieved in any started but uncompleted game will be preserved for the conceding team unless solely due to lack of time (see K3, K4, K5).
3. For 3D, unplayed or unfinished rubbers due to lack of time shall be scored 25-0, 0-25. If a rubber is not completed for any other reason any completed game(s) score stands, unstarted game(s) are scored 25-0 to the non-conceding team and started but uncompleted game(s) are scored 25-X to the non-conceding team, where X is the number of points scored by the conceding team prior to stopping the uncompleted game.
4. For mixed and men's doubles if, after 6 or more rubbers have been played, should it become obvious that the match cannot be completed under normal scoring conditions (rubber being best of 3 games to 21 points, with setting), the remaining rubber or rubbers shall be one game to 21 points, with setting, changing ends at 11. A club unable to complete a match due to lack of time shall concede any unplayed or unfinished rubber(s) to their opponents 21-0, 21-0.
5. For women's doubles if, after 4 or more rubbers have been played, should it become obvious that the match cannot be completed under normal scoring conditions (rubber being best of 3 games to 21 points, with setting), the remaining rubber or rubbers shall be one game to 21 points, with setting, changing ends at 11. A club unable to complete a match due to lack of time shall concede any unplayed or unfinished rubber(s) to their opponents 21-0, 21-0.

L. PROMOTION, RELEGATION & TEAM ALLOCATION TO DIVISION

1. Committee Discretion:
 - a) The number of divisions in each discipline and the number of teams per division will be decided by the Committee by applying the rules for that discipline but the Committee reserves the right to promote or relegate teams if considered desirable in the interests of the League.
 - b) If, by applying the standard rules for promotion and relegation, this results in a club with more than one team having a lower registered team allocated to a higher division than a higher

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registered team, due to their relative end of season positions, the League will rename the teams for the upcoming season. The teams will be allocated to divisions in alphabetical order, with the 'A' team being in the highest division that club will have a team in, the 'B' team in the next highest team space and so on in descending order.

2. Any new team entering a league (or in a doubles league, a discipline) must start in the lowest division, except where the Committee feels it is in the best interest of the league to enter the new team in a higher division.
3. Any club having more than one team in a league (or in the doubles league, in a discipline) and wishing to withdraw a team must withdraw its lowest team, except where the Committee feels it is in the best interest of the league to withdraw a team in a higher division .
4. If a team concedes more than two matches in any one division in a season they will be relegated one division.
5. If a team concedes more than 50% of its matches it will be deemed to have withdrawn.
6. Where a team withdraws from a division then only one team will be relegated from that division.
7. Where clubs merge or fold then team(s) positions for the following season will be decided by the Committee.
8. For 3D and 5D, match results depend on the total number of points scored. The league positions will be determined by the total number of "points for" and, if tied, then on "least points against" for the teams involved followed by the result of the match between those teams.
9. For 3D, promotion and relegation will be two up and two down for all divisions.
10. For 5D, promotion and relegation shall be two up and two down except in divisions which have less than eight teams which will be decided by the Committee.
11. In the doubles leagues:
 - a) League positions will be determined firstly by points achieved for the match results, then by matches won, then by rubbers won, then by individual games won. Should two teams be tied on all four counts then the result of the matches between them will determine which side finishes higher. If there should still be a tie then the Committee will decide.
 - b) Should two teams finish level on points then, where a team has been awarded a walkover, the rubbers for that match and the other team's corresponding match against the team conceding (ie the home match if walkover was a home match) shall not be taken into account when calculating final positions.
 - c) Promotion and relegation for all divisions will be on a two up, two down basis, except where there are fewer than six teams in a division, where one team will be promoted and one relegated.

M. APPEAL PROCEDURE

1. In the case of all disputes the Committee will expect written statements from all parties concerned. These should be sent to the OBL Secretary to arrive within 7 days of the dispute arising. The dispute will normally be included on the agenda for the next Committee meeting unless it is deemed by the OBL Secretary and Chair to require more urgent consideration by the Committee.
2. The Committee's decision shall be final.

Janet Atkins
OBL League Secretary