

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE VETERANS INTER-COUNTY LEAGUE 2010/2011**

### **GENERAL**

- 1 The competition shall be called the Veterans Inter-County League. It will be competed for in accordance with the following regulations, or such other regulations as BADMINTON England, or the Veterans Policy Group (hereinafter called the Committee) may from time to time determine, and the Laws of Badminton as adopted by the International Badminton Federation.
- 2 The League shall be open to every English county, if governed by a county association affiliated to BADMINTON England, the different Channel Islands and the Isle of Man if governed by an association recognised as a county association and affiliated to BADMINTON England, provided that the full affiliation fees are paid. Entries from associations affiliated to other National Associations may be accepted at the discretion of the Committee.
- 3 Entry forms will be circulated to counties in April/May and these must be returned to BADMINTON England with the appropriate fee per team by 31<sup>st</sup> May. Counties may enter more than one team in each age group. An additional fee shall be payable by those counties qualifying for the National finals.

### **THE LEAGUE AND FINALS**

- 4 a) The country will be divided into 4 regions where possible, in which a competition for age groups over 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 and 65 will take place (subject to sufficient entries being received). It may be necessary to split age groups within an area based on standard or geography, as determined by the Committee, taking in the views of the counties involved.
- b) Where there are two divisions by standard the team winning Division 1 will proceed to the National finals and the top team in Division 2 will be promoted to Division 1 and the bottom team in Division 1 will be relegated.
- c) Where regions have been split geographically the winning teams from each section will play off on a pre-determined date to qualify for the National finals.
- d) In the event of there being only 5 teams or less in any region, then normally they will play group matches at home and away, otherwise teams will compete on a home OR away basis, alternating if possible each year.
- e) To qualify for the finals, the region winning team will be the one with the highest number of points based on:

3 points for a win, 2 points for a 6 all win, 1 point for a 6 all defeat, and no points for a defeat. In the case of a walk-over, 3 points will be given to the non-offending side and none to the conceding team.

In the event of 2 or more teams having the same number of points, the winners will be decided on matches won to lost. If 2 counties are still tied the result of the tie between them or, where home and away fixtures are played, the combined results of the ties between them will decide.

- f) Each year the age group winners will play off over a weekend for the National League title on a knock out basis. A draw will be made before the event with semi-finals on the Saturday, with the winners contesting the final on Sunday and losers competing for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place.
- g) If there are only three regions in any age group then each team will play each other.
- h) Unless there are time restrictions the same rules apply for the finals as for the area ties.
- i) The Referee's decision on all matters is final.

## THE FIXTURES

- 5a) When making fixtures the home team must offer two dates to the away team. If travelling distance is too great it is possible for the tie to be played at a mutually agreed venue with shared expenses. Where possible teams should complete half their ties prior to 31<sup>st</sup> December and all ties by 31<sup>st</sup> March each year, except where a play off is involved when matches must be completed at least a week before the play off date.

The dates, times and venues of all home fixtures shall be notified to Veteran Coordinator or League Secretary of each opposing county and BADMINTON England by 31<sup>st</sup> August preceding the season of competition. This should be achieved by using the Confirmation of Home Fixtures Form supplied by BADMINTON England.

- b) In an area with more than one team from an individual county (i.e. a county first and second team), these two teams **must** play each other before the 31<sup>st</sup> December. Failure to adhere to this requirement will lead to the tie(s) being considered as 'Not Played' and no points will be awarded to either team.
- c) A tie should be played on at least two courts allowing 8 hours playing time per tie. For an Over 65s tie 6 court hours should be allowed.
- d) Any county having to cancel an away tie shall reimburse the home county for court hire if asked to do so.
- e) The home team is responsible for all the tie expenses and should provide light refreshments.
- f) Feather shuttlecocks must be used.

## ELIGIBILITY of PLAYERS

- 6a) All players must be eligible to play for their county under the current Inter-County Championships regulations as set out in the annual Inter-County Championships Handbook, with the following provisos on ICC Regulation 14:
  - (i) if a player is playing in the Inter-County Championships or Veterans Inter-County Championships, that player must play for the same county if that county enters a team of the appropriate age group within the Inter-County League. If such a team is not entered, the player may play for another county provided that the player is otherwise eligible.
  - (ii) a player may be an individual member of BADMINTON England through the 'On Court' membership scheme or through the Coaches Register instead of being a member of an affiliated club.
- b) Players must be over the age of 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 or 65 at the start of a tie.
- c) Before the first tie is played counties must nominate all squad members for each age group on the forms supplied. Details of subsequent players added to a squad must also be advised as soon possible to BADMINTON England, and before they compete.
- d) A player who has been nominated for a particular age group may play as a reserve for other age groups on two occasions in total. An 'occasion' means a league tie; or a play-off; or the semi-final/final weekend (ie. the semi-final and final is only considered as a single occasion).

For example a player aged 51, nominated for the 45s can play: (a) once for the 40s **and** once for the 50s **or** (b) twice for the 40s **or** (c) twice for the 50s.

- e) Where counties have 2 teams in an age group, at least 4 men and 4 women must be nominated prior to the start of that county's fixtures as first team players, except in the over 65 age group, for which at least 3 men and 3 women must be nominated. Nominations must be sent to the League Secretary 10 days before that County's first match in that age group. Nominated first team players will be allowed to play for the second team once only, and no more than one man and one woman from the first team may play in any single second team tie.

Second team players may play for the first team on two occasions but if they should play a third time they will be deemed to be part of the first team squad and cannot play for the second team again.

- f) To qualify to play in the finals a player must have competed in at least two league ties. In those age groups and areas where a team plays only four ties or less a player must have competed in at least one league tie to qualify to play in the finals.

## THE TEAM

- 7 A team should consist of a minimum of 4 men and 4 women and with a maximum of 6 men and 6 women. An over 65 team should consist of a minimum of 3 men and 3 women and with a maximum of 5 men and 5 women.

## THE TIE

- 8 a) (i) Over 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 age groups

A tie will consist of 12 matches. Each team shall provide 2 men's doubles pairs, 2 women's doubles pairs and 4 mixed doubles pairs. In the men's and women's doubles events each pair of a team will play each of the opposing 2 pairs. In the mixed doubles each pair will only play their opposite number and they must play in strength order.

- (ii) Over 65 age group

A tie will consist of 9 matches. Each team shall provide 3 men's doubles pairs (each man shall play twice), 3 women's doubles pairs (each woman shall play twice) and 3 mixed doubles pairs. All pairs must play in strength order, i.e. Man 1 & 2, 1 & 3, 2 & 3, Lady 1 & 2, 1 & 3, 2 & 3 followed by the Mixed again in order of strength of the pairs.

- b) Complete team sheets should be exchanged before commencement of the tie. A copy must also be given to the Referee or organiser, when requested to do so. Ineligible players must be declared before the tie starts. If a team is fielding an ineligible player(s) in order to give opponents their full quota of matches they must be considered as the weakest player(s) where matches are to be played in order of strength.
- c) Each match will be the best of three games of 21 points except that if the score reaches 20-all the winner is the pair with 2 clear points or whose score reaches 30 first. This is known as the Rally Point Scoring System as under the revised Laws of Badminton as introduced by the BWF in May 2006.  
Note: there shall be NO intervals when a side reaches 11 points in a game, NOR between the first and second games, and the second and third games.  
Coaching will NOT be permitted during or between games.
- d) In the event of an injury in the first round of men's or women's doubles a substitute (if available) may play in the second round. An injury substitution can be made for the mixed doubles providing it is done before that mixed match has commenced (i.e. once the first service has started). (See ICC Regulation 17(b)).

In the event of an injury in the level doubles and no reserve is available to play in the mixed, the mixed doubles matches will be played in the same order as decided at the outset of the tie with no changes allowed in the pairings. The mixed match in which the injured player was due to play will be conceded to their opponents 21-0, 21-0.

If an injury prevents a match being completed any points or games won by the defaulting pair shall stand with their opponents being awarded the necessary points and games to win the match.

Any substitution must not cause undue delay.

- e) The winner will be decided on the higher number of matches won. Should the tie finish 6 matches all, a winning draw will be awarded to the team winning the most games; if equal then the most points and if still equal the result of the 1st mixed (see regulation 4e regarding the points awarded for draws). In the Over 65 age group the winner of a tie will be the team winning the most matches.
- f) The winning team must send the result sheet signed by both team captains to the League Results Secretary within 7 days of the tie.

#### **COMMITTEE POWERS**

- 9 The Veterans Policy Group shall have full powers to decide on matters not covered in the foregoing regulations and shall rule in the event of any disputes.