

League Season 2026/2027 – Rules and Conditions

1. Team Selection

Team selection for all league teams will be made by a Selection Committee consisting of:

- The Chairman
- The Coach
- The relevant League Team Captain

The Selection Committee will consider player ability, commitment, availability, attendance, attitude, and the overall needs of the club when selecting teams.

2. League Teams

Open 1

Open 1 will consist of the club's strongest players and will comprise a squad of up to eight players, including six primary team members and up to two named reserves.

Open 2 (Development and Progression Team)

Open 2 is intended for players who wish to play competitive badminton but who do not currently meet the requirements for Open 1. The team will focus on player development, coaching, progression, and competitive league participation.

Players who demonstrate commitment, a positive attitude, and a willingness to develop may also be considered for selection.

Mixed Team

The Mixed Team will consist of the club's strongest available male and female players. The squad may include up to two male reserves and two female reserves.

Team Preferences

When registering, players may select one of the following options:

- Open 1 only
- Open 1 and Open 2

Players who select “Open 1 only” and are not selected for the Open 1 squad will not be eligible for league participation during that season.

3. Reserve Players

All players expressing an interest in league badminton should be willing to act as reserve players unless they specifically indicate otherwise during registration.

Selection for any league team cannot be guaranteed.

4. Players Representing Other League Clubs

The club recognises that some members may also represent other league clubs.

Players must declare any league commitments with other clubs when registering their interest.

Priority may be given to players who are fully committed to representing the club and do not participate in league badminton for another club.

Unless otherwise declared, the club will assume that players are available to represent the club in any format for which they are eligible, including Open, Mixed, and Ladies leagues.

This requirement is particularly important for female players due to the limited player pool and the need to maintain adequate reserve cover.

5. Format Allocation

The club reserves the right to select players for a format other than their preferred choice where necessary to ensure all teams can be fielded and remain competitive.

6. Eligibility for Home Fixtures

To be eligible for league selection, players must regularly attend club sessions on the evening on which their team's home fixtures are played.

For the 2026/2027 season, all home fixtures will be played on Mondays.

This requirement applies equally to reserve players.

Existing Mixed Team players may be exempt from this requirement where approved by the Selection Committee.

Additional exceptions may be considered where necessary to support team selection and maintain squad balance.

7. Team Sizes

Each league team will normally consist of a minimum squad of six players where three pairings are required.

All players who express an interest in league badminton will be informed whether they have been selected as a team member, reserve player, or have not been selected.

8. Open League Team Structure

The Open League programme will operate using a player pool system.

Each team will consist of six selected players, with additional reserve players available where required.

Player movement between teams may occur throughout the season to accommodate form, availability, injuries, player development, and team requirements.

The following principles will apply:

- Open 1 may select players from Open 2 or the reserve pool
- Open 2 may select players from the reserve pool and, where appropriate, players ranked fifth and sixth within Open 1
- Any future Open teams may select players from lower-ranked teams or the reserve pool, subject to approval by the Selection Committee

The Selection Committee reserves the right to move players between teams where necessary.

9. Match Selection

The Team Captain is responsible for selecting the six players who will represent the team in each match.

Selection decisions will take into account:

- Player availability
- Performance
- Commitment
- Attendance
- Partnership requirements
- Opposition strength

The Team Captain's decision is final, though they may consult the Coach and Selection Committee where appropriate.

10. Partnerships

Players may not choose their own playing partners.

However, players may discuss preferences or concerns with their Team Captain, who will make the final decision regarding pairings.

11. Coaching

League players are expected to participate in coaching sessions as part of their commitment to the club and ongoing development.

Coaching sessions will normally take place as follows:

- Open 1 and Open 2 – Monday evenings
- Mixed Team – Wednesday evenings

Players who do not wish to participate in coaching must either:

- Obtain prior approval from the Chairman; or
- Declare this when completing the league registration form

Players who opt out of coaching may be allocated to social play courts where appropriate.

Where capacity allows, players who participate in both Monday and Wednesday sessions may be offered additional coaching opportunities at the discretion of the Coach.

12. Match Practice

League teams are expected to participate in organised match practice sessions throughout the season.

Open 1 and Open 2 match practice will normally take place on Mondays. Mixed Team match practice will normally take place on Wednesdays, due to court capacity limitations.

Where appropriate, mixed partnerships whose home fixtures are played on Mondays may be invited to participate in Monday match practice sessions alongside Open League players.

The club may also arrange combined practice sessions involving Open 1 and Open 2 players to support development and partnership preparation.

The Selection Committee, Coach, and Team Captains reserve the right to determine the structure and allocation of all practice sessions.

13. Club Attendance

All league players must comply with club rules and are expected to attend at least 70% of club sessions throughout the season.

Failure to meet attendance requirements may affect future selection.

14. Club Shirts

All players representing the club in league matches must wear the official club shirt.

League players and designated reserves will be provided with one shirt free of charge.

15. Scorecards

Only the Team Captain or Vice-Captain is authorised to complete and sign official league scorecards.

16. Monthly League Fee

League players and any reserve players identified in advance by the committee will be required to pay a league fee of £5 per month.

This fee contributes towards:

- Coaching provision
- Shuttle costs
- General league expenses

Any player experiencing financial difficulty should speak confidentially with the Chairman.

17. Match Fees

All selected league players will be required to pay a one-off seasonal fee, expected to be approximately £40.

If a player withdraws during the season, refunds will not normally be issued.

Reserve players called upon to play will be charged £5 per match.

18. Competition Rules

All players must comply with the rules and regulations of the relevant league organisations.

Any breach may result in disciplinary action.

19. Availability

Players should only register as full league players if they expect to be available for at least 80% of league fixtures.

This equates to approximately 10–12 matches.

Players with lower availability should register as reserve players.

20. Conduct and Behaviour

All players are expected to behave in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner at all times.

Abuse, harassment, intimidation, discrimination, or unacceptable behaviour towards any member, official, opponent, or representative will not be tolerated.

Committee members and officials are volunteers and must be treated with respect.

Unacceptable behaviour includes:

- Deliberate damage to equipment
- Abusive language

- Aggressive behaviour towards players or officials
- Actions that bring the club into disrepute

This includes behaviour on social media or digital communications where it may impact the club's reputation.

Any breach may result in disciplinary action, including removal from teams or suspension from the club.

Acceptance of League Rules

By registering for league badminton, players confirm that they have read, understood, and agree to abide by these Rules and Conditions for the 2026/2027 season.

Failure to comply may affect selection and could result in disciplinary action.