

BADMINTON
ENGLAND



SENIOR COUNTY
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Competition Handbook 2023-24

BADMINTON
ENGLAND



PLAY **Babolat.**

AN OFFICIAL SHUTTLECOCK SUPPLIER

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Foreword

The 2022-23 SCC season was fraught with challenge. Much of that was BE's own doing, and for that I can only apologise.

This year will be better. Armed with information from you, the players, team managers, captains, coaches, and parents through completion of the SCC Survey, we aim to improve our processes and raise the profile of this amazing competition.

The following was taken from the book "Will it make the boat go faster?" written by Olympic Gold Medallist Ben Hunt-Davis, who won Gold in the Men's 8 Rowing at the 2000 Sydney Games. I believe it encapsulates what the SCC Competition is going through in this moment.

"We tend to assume change is a bad thing, but change can make our boat go dramatically faster. We also worry, that change is difficult, but the crew's experience shows that there are some very simple ways to make change easier and even enjoyable.

Some of it, is to do with mindset – putting ourselves in the driving seat, not being the victim. Some of it is to do with communication – building bridges and looking for the upsides – and the final bit of the jigsaw is taking simple actions to put the change into practice."

The changes we put in place for this competition are for the purpose of achieving our Gold Medal. To raise the competition to the highest level possible, with more players playing at a high level. More players representing their counties with enthusiasm, joy, and pride.

I'm looking forward to this season, I hope you all are too!

Jon Hancock
BE Competitions Manager
Championships Director

Compete

- Comes from Latin competere, "come together," but in later Latin, it developed the sense "strive together,"



The Senior County Championships

The SCC Management Group

Jon Hancock (BE - Championships Secretary)

Mark Downie (BE – Head of Competitions)

Steve Abbott (Nd)

James Elkin (So)

Brian Greenwood (La)

Dan Hooper (Sk)

Fiach O'Rourke (Av)

Sue Spink (Wk)

Matt Steel (Yo)

The SCC MG is made of 2 BE Competition staff members and volunteer representatives from 7 county badminton associations of the SCC. In 2021 the counties were offered to nominate representatives to join the MG, which increased the group size from 6 to 9 (inc BE staff).



The Senior County Championships

Regulations 2023/24

(Amendments from 2022/23 in BOLD)

1. THE SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

They will be competed for annually in accordance with the following regulations, or such other regulations as Badminton England (BE), may from time to time approve, and the Laws of Badminton as adopted by the Badminton World Federation [BWF].

The Senior County Championships (SCC) shall be managed by BE. Subject thereto each competing county shall be responsible for all matters affecting its county's teams.

The SCC shall be governed by the following Regulations.

2. TEAM ENTRY CONDITIONS

The SCC shall be open to:

- a) Every county association affiliated to BE.
- b) The different Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, if governed by an association recognised as a county association by and affiliated to BE.
- c) Any Irish, Scottish or Welsh regional association, if similarly governed and subject to the sanction of its own national organisation, which shall conform geographically to a branch of **Badminton Ireland**, a group of Badminton Scotland or a group of **Badminton Wales**, as laid down in the constitutions of those Unions, and which shall be acceptable to BE.
- d) Each of those entering under (a), (b), and (c) above shall hereinafter be referred to as a 'county'.
- e) All teams entering under (b) and (c) above shall play all their ties in England unless mutually agreed otherwise with their opponents.
- f) BE shall have the right to determine from time to time the classification of each competing team subject to the provisions of Regulations and to determine the constitution of Divisions and Sections. Such decisions shall be notified to all competing Counties at the earliest opportunity.
- (g) BE shall have the power to refuse the entry of any team from outside the area under its jurisdiction, which is considered to be too strong or otherwise unsuitable.
County Boundaries under (c) above:

- The Lanarkshire Group comprises clubs in the areas of Scotland served by North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Councils but excluding Cumbernauld and Kilsyth.
- The Lothian group comprises clubs in the areas of Scotland served by East Lothian, the City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils.
- The Glasgow and North Strathclyde group comprises clubs in the areas of Scotland served by West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, Glasgow City and Argyle and Bute Councils excluding the former electoral division of Dunoon, East Cowal and Bute, but including Cumbernauld and Kilsyth.
- The Mid Glamorgan Group comprises Caerphilly district, Cardiff Central, Cardiff North, Cardiff South and Penarth, Cardiff West, Cynon Calley, Merthyr, Ogmore, Pontypridd, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Vale, Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend.
- The West Glamorgan Group comprises Swansea, Lliw Valley, Neath, Port Talbot and Dyfed Powys.
- The Scottish Midlands, comprising Clubs in the areas of Scotland served by Angus, City of Dundee, Perth and Kinross, Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling and Fife Councils.
- North-East Wales Badminton Association – Flintshire, Denbighshire and Wrexham.
- **The Leinster group comprises Longford, Louth, Westmeath, Meath, Offaly, Kildare, Dublin, Laois, Wicklow, Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford.**

3. FILING OF ENTRIES

New teams entering the Championships, as well as teams wishing to withdraw from the Championships should notify the Championships Secretary (**BE Competitions Manager**) **prior to the SCC Co-ordinators meeting following the last completed season, immediately preceding the next season of competition.** Unless notified to the contrary by the same date it will be assumed that each team which carried out its commitments in the preceding season is desirous of competing in the following season.

4. COMPETITION FINANCES

Entry fees on the following basis shall be payable 30 days net from the invoice date.

- a) The costs of venues, shuttlecocks and other incidental expenses shall be borne by BE.
- b) Accommodation and travelling expenses shall be borne by each team or its county.
- c) BE shall be empowered, at its discretion, to make grants towards travelling expenses, subject to the availability of finance.
- d) BE shall have the power to make, at its discretion, charges and or grants towards expenses incurred for any play-offs for promotion.

5. TROPHIES

- a) The county winning the Premiership shall be regarded as the champion county and shall have the right to hold until the following **1st March** the trophy presented by the Chester, Claughton, Grosvenor and Wallasey Badminton clubs.
- b) The county winning the Championship shall be regarded as the champion county for the division and have the right to hold onto the trophy until the following **1st March**.
- c) The top 2 teams in Division 1, North & South shall play-off to decide the winners of Division 1. The winners shall have the right to hold until the following **1st March** the trophy presented by Brigadier R. Bruce Hay DSO.
- d) The trophies shall remain the property of BE, which shall be responsible for insurance and engraving. The holders shall be responsible for their care and maintenance.

6. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of these regulations the following definitions shall apply;

Events - open's singles, women's singles, open doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles are different 'events'.

Match - the best of three games is a 'match'.

Section - the combination of county teams which shall be scheduled to play each other in the Regional Divisions shall be known as sections.

Tie - the competition between one county team and another is known as a 'tie'.

Weekend – the designated dates (Saturday and Sunday) over which all divisions are contested.

With reference to BE's updated Transgender policy, the men's category will now be referred to as the Open category. Whilst the women's category will still be referred to as the women's category.

7. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- a) **The Premiership shall comprise ten county first teams; 2nd teams are not permitted in the Premiership.**
- b) **The Championship shall comprise ten teams. Second (and third) teams are permitted into the Championship division. Each county can have a maximum of two teams.**
- c) **Division 1 shall comprise sixteen teams, split geographically into two Sections (North and South) each with eight teams. Each county can have a maximum of two teams.**
- d) **The remaining teams will be organised into Divisions (2, 3, etc), each with four regional sections of 8 teams. If a county has 3 or more teams in a Division, the top two teams are placed into the "local" section and other teams placed into the next suitable section.**
- e) **The lowest division may have fewer sections and / or teams. The allocation of teams at this level will be determined by the SCC Management team each year. Counties may have 3 teams in the lowest division only if, in the preceding season, no more than one of their teams finished in the bottom half of the section of their division. Where this Regulation is breached, counties will be required to withdraw their lowest team from the SCC.**

8. DIVISIONS AND SECTIONS

PREMIERSHIP

**Middlesex
Buckinghamshire
Hampshire
Surrey
Yorkshire
Avon
Leicestershire
Hertfordshire
Leinster
Warwickshire**

CHAMPIONSHIP

**Cheshire
Lancashire
Nottinghamshire
Kent
Yorkshire 2
Sussex
Essex
Northumberland
Lanarkshire
Gloucestershire**

DIVISION 1	
NORTH	SOUTH
<p>Glasgow & NS</p> <p>Derbyshire</p> <p>Leicestershire 2</p> <p>Yorkshire 3</p> <p>Warwickshire 2</p> <p>Nottinghamshire 2</p> <p>Cambridgeshire</p> <p>Suffolk</p>	<p>Avon 2</p> <p>Hertfordshire 2</p> <p>Middlesex 2</p> <p>Hampshire 2</p> <p>Surrey 2</p> <p>Dorset</p> <p>Berkshire</p> <p>Devon</p>

DIVISION 2			
NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH-EAST	SOUTH-WEST
Lothian	Oxfordshire	Middlesex 3	Wiltshire
Lancashire 2	Worcestershire	Kent 2	Avon 3
Isle of Man	Norfolk	Essex 2	Devon 2
Yorkshire 4	Northamptonshire	Sussex 2	Hampshire 3
Lancashire 3	Warwickshire 3	Surrey 3	West Glamorgan
Cheshire 2	Staffordshire	Berkshire 2	Dorset 2
Yorkshire 5	Bedfordshire	Essex 3	Avon 4
Cheshire 3	Lincolnshire	Hertfordshire 3	Gloucestershire 2

DIVISION 3			
NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH-EAST	SOUTH-WEST
Durham	Leicestershire 3	Buckinghamshire 2	Cornwall
Lothian 2	Cambridgeshire 2	Oxfordshire 2	Guernsey
Derbyshire 2	Shropshire	Sussex 3	Somerset
Nottinghamshire 3	Worcestershire 2	Kent 3	Devon 3
Northumberland 2	Bedfordshire 2	Middlesex 4	Avon 6
Lancashire 4	Warwickshire 4	Suffolk 2	Avon 5
Cumbria	Norfolk 2	Wiltshire 2	Isle of Wight
Isle of Man 2	Worcestershire 3	Wiltshire 3	Berkshire 3

DIVISION 4	
SOUTH-WEST	SOUTH-EAST
Avon 7	Cambridgeshire 3
Staffordshire 2	Lincolnshire 2
Somerset 2	Northamptonshire 2
Herefordshire	Northamptonshire 3
Gloucestershire 3	Essex 4

9. ARRANGEMENTS FOR PLAYING TIES

- The Premiership, Championship and Regional Divisions shall be completed in three weekends on dates and at venues determined by BE. An exception could be the lowest division, dependent upon the make-up of its' sections. The allocation of weekends at this level will be determined by the SCC Management team each year.
- BE will provide feather shuttlecocks for all ties unless notified by them to the contrary.
- BE shall have the power to decide any point upon which competing Counties are unable to agree, and for which these Regulations make no provision.

10. COMPETITION DATES

WEEK 1		WEEK 2		WEEK 3	
Premiership + Championship 11 th and 12 th November 2023		Premiership + Championship 20 th and 21 st January 2024		Premiership + Championship 23 rd and 24 th March 2024	
Regional Divisions 1 - 3 11 th November 2023		Regional Divisions 1 - 3 20 th Jan 2024		Regional Divisions 1 - 3 23 rd and 24 th March 2024	
WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	
Regional Div 4 11 th November 2023	Regional Div 4 2 nd December 2023	Regional Div 4 20 th January 2024	Regional Div 4 10 th February 2024	Regional Div 4 23 rd March 2024	

Division 1 Play-offs: Div 1 Play-Offs take place on 27th and 28th April 2024.

11. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

The table below details the league positions affected for promotion and relegation between each division.

DIVISION	PROMOTION	RELEGATION
Premiership	N/A	Bottom 2 teams
Championship	Top 2 teams	Bottom 2 teams
Division 1 (x2 sections)	Top 2 teams from each section form the Play-offs, top 2 teams of Play-offs promoted	Bottom 2 teams from each section relegated
Division 2 (x4 sections)	Top team from each section only promoted to Division 1	Bottom 2 teams from each section relegated to Division 3
Division 3 (x4 sections)	Top 2 teams promoted to Division 2	Bottom team from each section relegated to Division 4
Division 4 (x2 sections)	Top team from each section only promoted to Division 3	N/A

12. DECISIONS OF TIES AND SECTIONS

- One point will be awarded for each match won.
- The winner of a tie shall be decided by the number of matches won in such a tie.

- c) The winner of a Division or section shall be the team which wins the greatest number of points.
- d) Should two or more teams be equal on points the following shall decide the standings;
 - i. If two teams have won the same number of ties the winner of the tie between them.
 - ii. The team who wins the most ties.
 - iii. If there is no winner under (ii), or if three or more teams are equal these teams will be placed in descending order according to overall game difference. NB Game difference is number of games won minus games lost.
 - iv. If two teams are then equal the winner of the tie between them.
 - v. If there is no winner under (iv), or if three or more teams are equal these teams will be placed in descending order according to overall points difference. NB Points difference is number of points won minus points lost.
 - vi. If three or more teams are still equal BE will decide.
- b) In the event of a non-played tie, where in a section, provided that not more than 2 teams have faulted on playing all their ties (I.e. not including the non-faulting teams who have been affected), the below will be used in determining the final standings of that section.
- c) Where more than 50% of ties have been fulfilled by the faulting team(s):
 - i. The faulting team shall receive 0 points, such that no advantage can be gained by not playing.
 - ii. A score for the non-faulting team will be derived using a combination of the average tie scores for both teams, such that the strength/weakness of both teams and their opponents played is taken into consideration: ['Average of tie scores for non-faulting team' + 'Average of tie scores against faulting team opponents'] divided by 2.
 - iii. Where 50% or less of ties have been fulfilled by the faulting team:.
 - iv. All results of the faulting team will be expunged from the section in determining final standings and be automatically placed at the bottom of the group and relegated.
 - v. Where more than 2 teams have faulted in completing all their fixtures then this will be referred to BE and the SCC Management to determine the most appropriate course of action.
 - vi. In a division or section where it is required to determine the best-runner-up or next lowest team, and the number of ties played in sections is different then the average match score in ties played (for the avoidance of doubt this will does would not include any derived scores for non-played ties).

13. CONSTITUTION OF TIES

- a) Each team shall be arranged in such a way as to provide **for two open singles (OS) players, two women's singles (WS) players, two open doubles pairs (OD), two women's doubles (WD) pairs and three mixed doubles pairs (XD)**. The pairs in each doubles event shall be composed of entirely different players. All players and pairs shall be listed strictly in descending order of merit. Not doing so will result in all results in an event being forfeit.

- b) There is no limit on the number of players which may play over a weekend. Different players and pairs may be selected for different ties subject to **Regulation 15 - Eligibility of Players.**
- c) **Players are required to play within their assigned sex at birth.**

This requires competition to be categorised as:

- **Female events – for players assigned female at birth**
- **Open events – all individuals will be eligible to compete in the open category.**

Within doubles, partners must be of the same birth sex. In the female category, both female players must have a birth sex of female. For mixed doubles, partners must be of a different birth sex.

- d) **1 male and 1 female (assigned sex at birth) players are permitted to compete in a maximum of 3 disciplines in a match. All other players may only compete in a maximum of two events per tie.**
- e) **Players may only play in one sex category for the entire tie, i.e. play as same sex for Singles, Level Doubles and Mixed Doubles events. Each player may only play in one event of each discipline of a tie. E.g. either OS or WS, or either OD or WD – according to their assigned sex.**
- f) **Players eligible for both female and open categories may only enter/play in one discipline per tie, e.g., either OS and OD, or either WS and WD, but may not play across sex categories.**
- g) Any county objecting to the composition or ranking of their opponent's team must appeal to the Referee present before the commencement of the tie in which such a player is competing. **A tie may commence if the first round of matches can start where there are no objections to the player ordering to avoid delay to proceedings, and those players are not affected according to the number of events they can play.** If the dispute cannot be resolved on site, the complainant should ensure that the objection is noted on the result submitted online to BE **AND** send a supporting letter (**email**) to BE Championship Secretary within four days of the tie.
- h) If a county has two teams in the same section, then for the opening tie(s) between those teams, it is expected that a minimum of 6 of any nominated players for the teams shall play. If this is not the case, written reasons must be given to the match referee and reported with the result. **BE reserves the right to apply sanctions.**
- i) Team Captains may discuss altering the ordering of events should a congestion of fixtures build up. Should captains not be able to agree re-ordering, the referee shall be consulted. The referee's decision will be final. If a referee is not available, the original order should be adhered to. Any disputes are to be communicated to the competition@badmintonengland.co.uk for consideration.
- j) A county shall appoint a captain of its team for each tie and in default a team shall appoint its own captain.
- k) A captain shall be entitled to include a substitute for a player nominated in accordance with Regulation 12 – Constitution of Ties and Regulation 15 - Eligibility of Players:
- i. in the event of the player having failed to arrive by the time that player is required to play their first match; or

- ii. in the event of any player being incapacitated after play in a tie has begun, so that they cannot continue playing, for any subsequent matches in which such an incapacitated player should have taken part. The injury or other incapacity must be caused entirely after play has begun and not be due solely to tiredness or the worsening of an existing ailment; and providing that in either case.
- iii. the Referee (Regulation 19) AND the opposing team captain have been notified of the intention to substitute the absent or incapacitated player. An incapacitated player, having been substituted, is no longer eligible to take any further part in the tie.
- iv. the substitute shall be available to play when required.
- v. there is no breach in Regulation 12(a).

Subject to the foregoing, if a substitute is required for a player selected for two events, a different substitute may be included for each such event, but no substitute shall be a player who has already been selected to play in that particular event within that tie.

Where a substitution changes the order of strength in an event, and no match has started in that event, then the team order should be amended as under Regulation 12(a) to reflect the new descending order of merit.

The Referee's decision in any dispute about a substitution shall be final.

- l) If any county has difficulty fielding teams when more than one team is playing on the same day then the higher team must take priority where practically possible. This understands the practical implications on travel arrangements to different venues. Special dispensation may be requested from the SCC Management Group due to unforeseen circumstances.
- m) Teams must make their best efforts to complete matches on the designated weekends. If for any reason ties cannot be finished the circumstances should be reported by the referee and the SCC Management Group will decide the result of any such ties.
- n) The order of play in each tie shall be firstly all singles matches, secondly all open and women's doubles matches, and thirdly all mixed doubles matches. Team managers may mutually agree to change the order of play in regional division ties, and in the case of any dispute the final order of play shall be decided by the Referee/Organir if present and if not, the recommended order used.
- o) The revised Laws of Badminton as introduced by the BWF in May 2006 shall be used, including the Rally Points Scoring System, intervals and coaching. Each match shall be the best of three games of 21 points except that if the score reaches 20-all the winner is the player/pair with 2 clear points or whose score reaches 30 first.
- p) In cases where any player or pair absent or unwilling to play when required to do so shall forfeit the match concerned, which shall be scored as a win for the opponents by two games to love, except that thirty minutes' grace shall be granted from the time fixed for the commencement of the tie, unless otherwise mutually agreed by the two captains.
- q) A player is entitled to at least thirty minutes rest after every singles match, and at least fifteen minutes rest after any doubles match, before their next match.

14. TEAM SELECTIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

- a) Captains shall present the composition of their teams in writing to the Referee at least fifteen minutes before the scheduled start of the tie and, unless instructed by the Referee, e.g. for a breach in Regulation 12(a) – Constitution of Ties, no alteration shall be made thereafter except as provided in Regulation 12.
- b) Premiership teams are required to submit their teams for Saturdays first fixture by 12pm on the Friday preceding the match weekend. This is to support event management team to enter teams into the Tournament Software system. Captains must re-confirm teams 30mins prior to start of play on Saturday morning. The deadline for team submission for Rounds 2 and 3 of the weekend will be 30mins prior to start of these rounds.

15. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

- a) The result of every tie in the Premiership, together with the full scores of all matches therein and the names of players and the required affiliation numbers, signed by the captain or other official of both teams, shall be given to the Referee by the winning team. The Referee shall be responsible for confirming the accuracy of the result sheet. Online results for Premiership only shall be the responsibility of BE through Livescore Tournament Software.
- b) The result of every Championship and Regional Division tie is to be uploaded to the BE Compete website by a member of the winning team, by midnight on the Tuesday following the competition weekend. The losing team have the following 5 days to confirm the tie result. If it is not done it will be assumed to be correct and the Championship Secretary will confirm the result. Any dispute must be raised with the Championship Secretary within 7 days of the tie.

16. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

A player shall be eligible to represent a County if they meet the criteria set out in Appendix A and are a member of BE holding a current and valid Compete Membership. Players not living in England and members of another association must be registered as a non-resident and hold a current and valid Non-Resident Compete Membership.

A player must meet at least one of the following Eligibility Criteria to qualify to represent their county:

- i) Were born in that county
- ii) Currently reside in that county
- iii) Currently in full time education in that county
- iv) Previously or last represented county
- v) Player has previously resided in county for at least 3 consecutive years

- a) **Any CBA relying on current residence for eligibility must supply the player's full postcode on the nomination form. This need only apply to new players into the county.**
- b) A player may only represent one county in a season unless their circumstances change significantly, e.g., moving to a new house making travel to their nominated county unrealistic. In any case, any wish to change counties must be made in writing to the Championships Secretary requesting a Special Dispensation.
- c) Should a county be in any doubt regarding a player's eligibility then these should be made in writing to BE's Competitions Team as described by the Eligibility Appeals process.
- d) BE reserves the right to grant special dispensations. Requests can be made by following the Special Dispensation Request process laid out.
- e) Every player will be required to hold a "Compete" membership. Should a player not hold a Compete membership, they can either upgrade through the online membership system, or the county can apply for a Wildcard. Wildcard requests will be accepted retrospectively. *
- f) Any county found to be falsely identifying a players' eligibility and/or selects an ineligible player will be **fined in accordance with Regulation 22 (c)**.

*For a Wild card to apply, notification of use of the wildcard should be provided by the team concerned within the notes section of the results tab on tournament software, within the results reporting deadline (midnight on Tuesday following the event weekend). The players' name BE number, county and rubbers played must be provided in the note. Counties are permitted 1 wildcard per team per weekend, plus an additional wildcard for the lowest ranked team.

Players are eligible to compete in club competitions overseas. BE do not restrict players to playing either/or competition in multiple countries as there is no conflict of interest as County Badminton Associations do not enter European competition. BE encourage players to check with their international clubs' competition regulations before signing for clubs overseas if the overseas competition restricts players from competing in the SCC.

BE will provide full list of eligibility cases from the previous season at the SCC Co-Ordinators meeting within their seasonal report.

17. COUNTY SQUAD SUBMISSIONS, TEAM NOMINATIONS, DENOMINATIONS AND TRANSFERS

County Squad Submission, Team Nominations and Denominations must be made in the spirit of the competition.

There will now be 2 elements of player submission / nominations. The first stage is

to submit a full list of players that the county declares eligible to represent them through the upcoming season. This list will be shared with all counties who may check and challenge eligibility.

The second stage is to nominate the players to a specific team for the forthcoming season. This is to declare the intent on which team the player is to be selected, and prevent them from playing for a team lower than is expected.

a) COUNTY SQUAD PLAYER SUBMISSIONS

- i) Counties will electronically submit a full list of players (County Squad Submission) they expect to select, who are deemed eligible and available through the upcoming season. The submission will be through an online shared document. See deadlines in Appendix C.
- ii) The County Squad Submission document shall include players Name, Gender and Member ID. New members transferred into the county will need to identify the previous county and indicate how they now qualify to represent their new county. Any county can request for any transferred player to submit documentation proving eligibility to the SCC Management Group. The player will have 14 days to submit documentation from the time BE contacts the player. A full list of players will be shared with all counties 1 week prior to the first competition weekend.
- iii) For missing the deadline, a county will be fined in accordance with Regulation 22.

b) COUNTY TEAM NOMINATIONS

- i) Counties will be requested to submit Team Nominations of a minimum of 4 men and 4 women per team. Deadline date set for **31st of October**.
- ii) Team Nominated players may play in teams higher than their assigned team but are not be eligible to play in a lower team than their nominated team (E.g. nominated for 2nd team, may not play for 3rd team). Un-assigned players may play for any team appropriate to their Grade and Rank. Any query as to the level of a player ahead of the playing weekend must be submitted to the Championship secretary at least 3 days prior to the first county weekend.
- iii) A player may represent different teams (if eligible following nominations) across a weekend but may not play in more than one team for both the first ties or both the second ties of any day, even if scheduling allows.
- iv) Players must be nominated for any play-off and shall have played for one or more teams a total of three ties in the competition in the current season. In the event of a player having been absent through serious injury, serious illness or pregnancy application for exemption may be made in writing to the Championships Secretary. The decision of BE shall be final.
- v) Every player will be required to hold a “compete” membership as a minimum to be eligible to represent their county within the SCC. Should a player not hold a compete license, they can either upgrade through the online membership system, or the

county can apply for a Wildcard. Wildcard requests will be accepted retrospectively.

For a Wild card to apply, notification of use of the wildcard should be provided by the team concerned within the notes section of the results tab on tournament software, within the results reporting deadline (midnight on Tuesday following the event weekend). The players' name BE number, county and rubbers involved in must be provided in the note. Counties are permitted 1 wildcard per team per weekend, plus an additional wildcard for the lowest ranked team.

c) DENOMINATIONS

- i) **A county can denominate a player into a lower team if by that point they have not represented the team for which they were originally nominated. The player may not play back up in any higher team during the rest of the season. A Denomination Request must be made in writing (email) to the Championship Secretary for approval by the SCC MG.**
- ii) **All players shall not be eligible to play for lower teams if they have played for a higher team on more than one weekend as defined in Regulation 6 (Players are Tied to the higher team after the 4th tie played for any Premiership or Championship teams, and the 3rd tie for teams in Div 1 and below).**
- iii) **Where a county denominates a player from one of their county teams then that player is no longer bound by the rules of the original nomination. If that player has represented the County in that season, then they will have to apply for special dispensation as per Appendix A.**

d) PLAYER COUNTY TRANSFER

Where a players' circumstance changes so that they are no longer available to a specific team or county, they will be required to be denominated.

- i. **If a player has not yet represented a County in that season, they are permitted to represent another county provided they are otherwise eligible. Following any transfer of player, the new County shall notify both the previously represented county, and the Championships Secretary at the earliest convenience, prior to the competition weekend.**
- ii. **A player may only represent one county in a season unless their circumstances change significantly, e.g. moving to a new house; making travel to their nominated county unrealistic. In any case, any wish to change counties must be made in writing to the Championships Secretary. The decision of BE shall be final.**

18. CLOTHING

BE shall apply the following clothing regulations (see Appendix B). Please note;

- (a) For the Premiership, team kit bearing the full county name, except where permission is sought to use an abbreviated name from BE, shall be worn by each individual player for the duration of their first match of each tie as a minimum and such kit should be worn throughout the whole tie if at all possible.
- (b) In doubles pairings in which one player has already competed in their first match of a tie, the player having not competed must wear their county shirt bearing the county name, with the player having already competed to wear a similar shirt. Similar is defined as same colour. Old county shirts are permissible.
- (c) Whilst Regulation 18(a) is not mandatory for regional divisions it is recommended that it is adhered to wherever possible.

19. REFEREES & ORGANISERS

- a) BE will appoint a registered referee to Premiership, Championship and Division 1 venues (including splits when necessary). BE shall endeavour to appoint a referee or organiser to all other divisions where possible.
- b) Referees are the designated point of contact for teams during the weekend for their assigned venue, and will be responsible for the following tasks:
 - i. Liaise with BE and venue regarding booking confirmation and set-up arrangements to ensure the playing area is suitably set up;
 - ii. Receive and return new shuttles (pre-event)
 - iii. Distribution of shuttles and information to teams (on the day).
 - iv. Welcome teams on arrival, ensure they find their allocated courts and chase any late arrivals. Liaise with team managers to coordinate the smooth running of the weekend, including management of teams to ensure play starts in a timely manner and is continuous.
 - v. The winning team is responsible for uploading results on Tournament Software (Championship Division and below) but referees are required to take a copy of any results in case of error.
 - vi. Liaise with teams for missing players online – checking for memberships
 - vii. Maintain a league table (supplied by BE for final weekend only)
- c) To be in overall charge of the ties and settle any matters of dispute WHERE POSSIBLE such as:
 - (i) Speed of shuttles
 - (ii) Order of strength of players and pairs where there is evidence supplied by the teams to support a decision, under **Regulation 12(a)** and in the case of substitutions under **Regulation 12(k)**. If not, the dispute is recorded and referred after the weekend to the SCC Management Group.
 - (iii) To organize the competition utilizing the Order of Play (Regulation 12 – Constitution of Ties)

- (d) Return a brief post event report to the Championships Secretary within 48 hours. Any disputes or issues are recorded here for the SCC Management Group to adjudicate on after the weekend.
- (e) Qualified referees may award cards for misconduct to a player during a tie and must record these on the post event report to the Championships Secretary within 48 hours.
- (f) Qualified referees may enforce Clothing regulations; this is a requirement at Premier Divisions (Regulation 18 & Appendix B).
- (e) In Premier Division where Umpires are present fulfil the duties under Regulation 20 concerning Umpires.

20. UMPIRES

- (a) BE, in conjunction with the Badminton Umpires Association of England (BUAofE) will appoint umpires to ties wherever possible.
- (b) When umpires and service judges are appointed by the BUAofE to officiate, the BUAofE shall also appoint a manager of umpires. The manager of umpires shall appoint umpires and service judges to individual matches. The team captains or Referee shall not make any such appointments nor make any stipulation as to the identity of such officials.
- (c) The Referee shall have the right to request the manager of umpires to replace an umpire or service judge during the course of a match if the Referee considers that the official is not carrying out their duties in a satisfactory manner and such a request shall not be refused. The Referee shall then submit a written report to the Honorary Secretary of the BUAofE within 7 days.
- (d) Where insufficient umpires are available for all matches to be service judged, then the Referee may request the manager of umpires to appoint such an official to a particular match.

21. COMPLAINTS

Any complaint made by the Referee, team managers or captains, the manager of umpires or a player shall be submitted in writing to Championships Secretary to be received within four days of the tie concerned.

The Championships Secretary shall then take such action as may be appropriate under these Regulations or BE's disciplinary procedures.

22. PENALTIES

- (a) Any county which shall fail to carry out any or all the commitments of any of its teams in any season shall be liable to a fine of £200.00 and/or to have a section point or points deducted and shall be liable to have the entry of the defaulting team rejected in the following season.
- (b) BE may also require a county to pay by a specified date a deposit of £200.00 per team, in default of which the entry of the team or teams shall be rejected. This deposit shall be forfeit if any of its commitments are not carried out in the following season. The

deposit shall be reviewed annually and may be retained for the following seasons until the conduct of the county is considered satisfactory.

- (c) Any county which shall fail to complete records required by these Regulations or who shall play a player who is ineligible under Regulations 12 - 15 inclusive, will be fined £50.00 for each competition **Weekend (see Regulation 6 Definitions)** in which such a player competes, in addition to the deduction of points won.
- i. Should the ineligible player win, that point shall be deducted from their teams overall match score manually and there shall be no additional overall points deduction. Should he/she lose, there would be no points deduction. The individual match score shall be amended to 21-0, 21-0, so that any points/sets won would not affect the final table.
 - ii. If the ineligible player played top string, Regulation 12 (a) would apply. Thus, if the second string player won, that point would be deducted from the team's score. Again rubber results shall be amended to 21-0, 21-0.
- (e) A county failing to comply with Regulation 14 – Notification of Results - shall be fined £25 on each occasion in addition to any other action, which may be taken under this Regulation.
- (f) A county failing to comply with Regulation 18 - Clothing - shall be given a one-off £100 fine following the first weekends play.
- (g) BE shall have the power to cancel results in any event, and to award walk-overs to the other team, if, after full consideration, any protest made in writing within four days of the date of the tie is upheld, or if BE considers it to be in the best interests of the competition.
- (h) BE shall have the power to withhold any monies that may be allocated or won and/or deduct points from teams if it is considered to be in the best interests of the competition.
- (i) Any appeal made against any penalty imposed must be made in writing to the Championships Secretary within 21 days of the date on the letter from BE imposing the penalty and must be accompanied by a cheque payable to BE Ltd for the full amount of any fine.
- (j) The Penalty System as detailed in the BE Regulations for Tournaments shall apply, with specific reference to (although not exclusive to) Cards for Misconduct.
- (k) **Counties failing to provide squad submissions and nominations by the notified deadlines will incur a £50 fine. A further fine of £100 will be enforced if no nominations provided 7 days in advance of the first fixture. An additional admin fee of £50 will be enforced if no nominations are received at all by the time the fixtures are played, with the players used from the fixtures added as the nominated players for the rest of the season.**
- (l) **Any county which makes false eligibility claims under Regulation 15 will be fined £50 for each separate aspect of the eligibility claim that is false.**

23. GENERAL

BE shall have full powers to decide any matters not covered by the foregoing Regulations.

Appendix A - Badminton England County Competition Eligibility:

The following regulations apply to all **BE County Representative Competitions, including but not limited to; Senior County Championships, Masters County Championships, Masters County Challenge, U18 Inter Counties Tournament.**

All players must be in good standing with BE and be either; a playing member of BE or registered with BE if they are member another national association affiliated to the Badminton World Federation.

A player shall be eligible to represent a County if they:

- i) Were born in that county
- ii) Currently reside in that county
- iii) Currently in full time education in that county
- iv) Previously or last represented county**
- v) Player has previously resided in county for at least 3 consecutive years**

A player may not represent more than one county during the same season without special dispensation.

If a county proposes to use a player who has played for another county in the preceding season that county must notify the match secretary of the previous county, and BE Competitions Team, of the change as soon as it is known and before the player plays for the new county for the first time.

Junior County; players must be below the qualifying age as per BE age groups.
Masters County; players must fall within the qualifying age groups at the start of the tie.
Masters participating in the Masters' County Championships and Masters County Challenge must represent the same county in both competitions if there is a team entered in the appropriate age group, however if such a team is not entered the player may represent another county provided they are otherwise eligible. Requests shall be carried out as per a Special Dispensation Request, following the process laid out.

Should a county be in any doubt regards a player's eligibility then these should be made in writing to BE Competitions Team by following the Eligibility Appeals process laid out.

BE reserves the right to grant special dispensations. Requests can be made by following the Special Dispensation Request process laid out.

Transferring County

If a county proposes to use a player who has played for another county in the preceding season(s) that county must notify the match secretary of the previous county and BE Competition & Events Team of the change as soon as it is known and before the player plays for the new county for the first time. It is the responsibility of the new County to ensure that all players meet the qualification criteria and may be required to provide evidence to such effect.

Definitions

- i) Were born in that county**

A CBA be requested to supply a copy of the players' birth certificate if or when required. County of birth will be determined using the County Boundaries.

ii) Currently reside in that county

A player is considered to be resident in a county where, for the time being, it is usual for them to live and forms part of their regular and habitual mode of life for more than 183 days and nights of the year (1st August to 31st July). If residence is less than 183 days of the year then special dispensation is required.

In considering whether a person is resident, all the circumstances of the particular case will need to be considered and evidence to support the case by providing:

- i) Two pieces of documentation from the list below. Players may provide evidence in their parents or legal guardians' name.
- ii) Can demonstrate that they will be at this address for 183 days of the year as part of their regular life (e.g. reason for change, personal circumstance, work, school, family, property, social ties). Where the player is over 18 and has not provided two pieces of documentation in their own name then further evidence may be requested.

Documentation for proof of address:

- Current lease/tenancy agreement showing name and address.
- A mortgage statement from a recognised Lender (issued within the last 12 months).
- Residence you are named on the Land registry (e.g. solicitor's letter confirming recent house purchase or land registry confirmation).
- Household bill e.g. council tax, utility bill, current television license, fixed line telephone (not mobile phone, satellite/cable TV or internet printed bills). (Issued within the last 6 months).
- Current full UK photo-card driving license or paper driving license, showing name and address. A provisional licence is only acceptable for individuals aged under 18.
- HM Revenue & Customs (Inland Revenue) tax document e.g. tax assessment, statement of account, PAYE coding notice, tax credits. It must contain your full name and current address (issued within the last 12 months). Please note pay slip, P45s and P60s are NOT acceptable.
- Notification of entitlement from the relevant agency confirming the right to benefits, state pension, educational grant, or other government/local authority grant (issued within the last 12 months).

For valuable documents you may prefer to send us certified copies rather than the original documents.

iii) Currently in full time education in that county

The county will be determined for the place of education based on the admissions address. Proof of education may be required, whereby the following will apply:

By law, all children between 5 and 16 must receive full-time education that meets their needs (e.g. if they have special educational needs). This may be at school or home educated. For players over the age of 16 to count as a full-time student, your course must:

- i) last at least 6 months (where you are required to attend for at least 24 weeks of the year)
- ii) involve at least 12 hours tuition or work experience per week during term time

As a guide this includes full-time college or university students, postgraduates, student nurses, apprentice schemes.

Documentation for proof of education:

- Letter of admission from the School, or letter from the school that demonstrates you are at that school.
- UCAS letter or student loan agreement from a Local Education Authority (issued within the last 6 months).
- Certificate of student status provided by your university or college (it is a requirement of the law for them to provide you a certificate if requested for up to a year after you complete your course).
- Council Tax Exemption Certificate that shows you are recognised as being in full time education.

It might be necessary for a class schedule to be requested, or list of courses you are registered to attend in order to demonstrate at least 12 hours tuition or work experience per week.

iv) Previously or Last represented that county

BE records of recognised County Tournaments will be used. The regulation understands that a player may have taken a break from competing, and therefore is returning to the game after a leave of absence. This regulation allows for the player to represent the county they previously qualified for, before the leave, even if circumstances have changed according to criteria b and c.

Alternatively, BE recognises at some point in the players past, they will have represented the county under the regulation eligibility criteria, either at Junior or Senior levels, even if represented other county(s) since.

v) Previously resided in county

As with criteria b, a player must be able to provide evidence that it was usual for them to live and formed part of their regular and habitual mode of life for more than 183 days and nights of the year (1st August to 31st July). If residence is less than 183 days of the year then special dispensation is required.

Eligibility Appeals Process

Should a county be in doubt regards a player's eligibility and can provide good reason or evidence to suggest that they may not be eligible then the following process shall be followed.

For the avoidance of doubt, any play from the voided 2019/2020 season cannot be used as proof as having previously played for a county.

- i. The county in doubt must raise its concerns with BE, setting out clearly the basis for them. These should be addressed to the Head of Competition via competition@badmintonengland.co.uk and copied to the county(ies) whose nomination(s) have raised concern(s).
- ii. BE shall respond within seven days to acknowledge receipt.
- iii. BE will contact the relevant county whose responsibility it will be to provide evidence on behalf of the player within 28 days of notice. During this period the player may continue to play; however, this is at the risk that results may be discounted at a later point if found ineligible.
- iv. Where appropriate evidence has been supplied **to the satisfaction of the SCC Management Group** then BE will confirm the player's eligibility to both counties involved.
- v. If the appropriate evidence cannot be provided by the County within 28 days, then the player will be deemed ineligible until appropriate evidence can be supplied and will no longer be permitted to play. The County may submit a Special Dispensation Request for that player following the process laid out.

Special Dispensation Request

- viii. A County may submit a request for special dispensation (SD) for a player. The request must be submitted to the Head of Competition via the appropriate form on the BE website (or from Head of Competition).
- ix. BE will acknowledge receipt of the request and notify all counties within seven days. Within a further 7 days, any other county may ask for a copy of the request from Badminton England. Any other county may, within 21 days of that supply, submit comments and/or further information for consideration.
- x. The SCC Management Group will consider the original request and any comments and/or further information supplied by other counties.
NB. Any failure of the requesting county to explain why a player cannot represent one of the counties for which that player is otherwise eligible will lead to automatic rejection of the request. xi. The decision of the SCC Management Group is final and cannot be appealed.

If SD request is of sensitive nature, a county may request case details not to be shared to wider SCC community, only to impacted counties. With generic details provided only. This may be managed on a case-by-case basis.

When sharing with other counties, only players name, counties affected and generic details are to be shared. Affected player will have control of what is shared.

Appendix B - Badminton England Clothing Regulations:

The following regulation relates to domestic competition to provide flexibility whilst retaining a general consistency and appropriateness of clothing. Clothing worn in international competition should refer to the Badminton World Federation website clothing regulations.

1. All clothing must be acceptable sports clothing (replica or other sport specific is not allowed) and its suitability, within the regulations, will be at the discretion of the tournament Referee.
2. Player name on shirts:
 - 2.1. Optional, except for Senior English Nationals where it shall be mandatory.
 - 2.2. Where included must be the correct name for that player, placed near the top and horizontal across the back of the shirt.
 - 2.3. Where included must include the family name (or abbreviation) and if desired may include further initials.
 - 2.4. If team, county or country name is also included, player name should be on top.
3. Team, County or Country name on shirts:
 - 3.1. Optional, except for the Premier Division of the SCC, where it shall be mandatory for the duration of the player's first match of each tie at a minimum and such kit should be worn throughout the whole tie if at all possible.
 - 3.2. Where included must be placed near the top and horizontal across the back of the shirt.
4. Text/Lettering
 - 4.1. Should be of suitable size such that it be in sensible proportion to be visibly practical, with a recommendation of between 4 -10cm.
 - 4.2. Must be in capital letters in the Roman alphabet and in one single colour contrasting with that of the shirt (if there is a pattern on the back of the shirt, the lettering should be on a contrasting panel).
5. Advertising and placements of advertising shall not be limited, except for anything that is or has the potential to be;
 - 5.1. Political or religious in nature.
 - 5.2. Insulting or offensive in nature.
 - 5.3. Harmful to the reputation of the relevant competition, BE, and/or any of BE's partners.
 - 5.4. Anything which is not a brand, registered mark or trade-mark.
6. Players displaying tattoos, paints, transfers or similar (which are not on clothing) must ensure such displays comply with the advertising requirements.
7. Colour;
 - 7.1. May be of any colour or combination of colours.
 - 7.2. It is recommended that doubles partners wear the same colours and similar design, except for the Senior English Nationals where it shall be mandatory and players would also need to wear different coloured clothing to their opponent(s).
8. Some tournaments or competitions may introduce event specific clothing regulations which would otherwise supersede the above.

Appendix C - Badminton England SCC Deadlines

Team Entry Submission for season:	31st August
Squad Submissions:	8th October
Team Nominations:	31st October
Team selection submission:	Friday 12pm prior to Competition Weekend (PREM ONLY) 15 minutes prior to start of tie (ALL OTHER DIVISIONS)

The Badminton England Senior County Championships Past Winners

1930-31 MIDDLESEX	1969-70 SURREY
1931-32 MIDDLESEX	1970-71 SURREY
1932-33 MIDDLESEX	1971-72 SURREY
1933-34 CHESHIRE	1972-73 SURREY
1934-35 MIDDLESEX	1973-74 SURREY
1935-36 MIDDLESEX	1974-75 SURREY
1936-37 MIDDLESEX	1975-76 LANCASHIRE
1937-38 LANCASHIRE	1976-77 ESSEX
1938-39 MIDDLESEX	1977-78 ESSEX
1939 to 1946 No Competition	1978-79 LANCASHIRE
1946-47 CHESHIRE & MIDDLESEX (un-played)	1979-80 LANCASHIRE
1947-48 YORKSHIRE	1980-81 LANCASHIRE
1948-49 CHESHIRE	1981-82 SURREY
1949-50 CHESHIRE	1982-83 SURREY
1950-51 MIDDLESEX	1983-84 SURREY
1951-52 CHESHIRE	1984-85 SURREY
1952-53 MIDDLESEX	1985-86 LANCASHIRE
1953-54 KENT	1986-87 ESSEX
1954-55 SURREY	1987-88 SURREY
1955-56 SURREY	1988-89 SURREY
1956-57 SURREY	1989-90 SURREY
1957-58 SURREY	1990-91 SURREY
1958-59 SURREY	1991-92 HERTFORDSHIRE
1959-60 KENT	1992-93 SURREY
1960-61 SURREY	1993-94 SURREY
1961-62 SURREY	1994-95 ESSEX
1962-63 SURREY	1995-96 ESSEX
1963-64 ESSEX	1996-97 ESSEX
1964-65 SURREY	1997-98 ESSEX
1965-66 SURREY	1998-99 LANCASHIRE
1966-67 SURREY	1999-00 YORKSHIRE
1967-68 SURREY	2000-01 YORKSHIRE
1968-69 SURREY	2001-02 YORKSHIRE

2002-03 YORKSHIRE	2013-14 SURREY
2003-04 YORKSHIRE	2014-15 YORKSHIRE
2004-05 WARWICKSHIRE	2015-16 YORKSHIRE
2005-06 YORKSHIRE	2016-17 YORKSHIRE
2006-07 YORKSHIRE	2017-18 MIDDLESEX
2007-08 YORKSHIRE	2018-19 MIDDLESEX
2008-09 YORKSHIRE	2019-20 abandoned due to Covid-19
2009-10 YORKSHIRE	2020-21 not played due to Covid-19
2010-11 YORKSHIRE	2021-22 - BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
2011-12 SURREY	2022-23 - MIDDLESEX
2012-13 YORKSHIRE	2023-24 -