



**MASTERS COMPETITIONS****KEY EVENTS****2024**

<b>October</b>	<b>12/13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Cumbria Silver</b>
	<b>19/20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Oxford Bronze</b>
	<b>25/27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Kent Gold</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>2/3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Northumberland Silver</b>
	<b>16/17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>West of England Silver</b>
	<b>29/30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>National Championships</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>National Championships</b>

**2025**

<b>January</b>	<b>11/12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>County Challenge</b>
	<b>17/19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>McCoig and Scottish International</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>1/2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Lancashire Silver</b>
	<b>1/2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Middlesex Bronze</b>
	<b>15/16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Hampshire Silver</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>7/9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Yorkshire Gold</b>
	<b>11/16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>All England</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Championship Regional play offs</b>
	<b>11/13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>All England Masters</b>
	<b>18/21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Guernsey Open</b>
	<b>26/27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Championship Finals</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Coordinators Annual Meeting</b>
	<b>17/18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Essex Silver</b>

**Senior County Champs****9/10th Nov 2024****18/19th January 2025 and****22/23rd March 2025**

# MASTERS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS DIVISIONS

## Over 40s

North	Midlands: East	Midlands: West	S&E: South	S&E: East	South West
Cheshire Lancashire Yorkshire 1 Yorkshire 2	Cambridgeshire 1 Cambridgeshire 2 Essex Lincolnshire Norfolk Suffolk 1 Suffolk 2	Bedfordshire Leicestershire Nottinghamshire Staffordshire Warwickshire Worcestershire	Berkshire Hampshire Oxfordshire Wiltshire	Buckinghamshire Hertfordshire Kent Middlesex Surrey Sussex	Avon Devon Dorset Gloucester Gwent Somerset

## Over 45s

North	Midlands	S & E South	S & E East	South West
Cheshire Lancashire Yorkshire	Derbyshire Nottinghamshire Shropshire Warwickshire	Kent Surrey Sussex	Buckinghamshire Essex Middlesex Norfolk	Avon Berkshire Hampshire Wiltshire

## Over 50s

North	Midlands: East	Midlands: West	S & SE South	S & E East	South West
Lancashire West of Scotland Yorkshire	Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire Lincolnshire Nottinghamshire	Avon Gloucestershire Oxfordshire Worcestershire	Hampshire Middlesex Surrey Sussex	Essex Hertfordshire Kent Suffolk	Cornwall Devon Dorset Wiltshire

## Over 55s

North	Midlands	S&E: South	S&E: East	South West
Cheshire Lancashire Lincolnshire Yorkshire	Buckinghamshire Nottinghamshire Warwickshire Worcestershire	Hampshire Kent Surrey	Essex Hertfordshire Norfolk	Avon Devon Somerset Wiltshire

## Over 60s

North	Midlands	S&E: South	S&E: East	South West
Cheshire Lancashire Nottinghamshire Yorkshire	Leicestershire Shropshire Worcestershire	Hampshire Kent Surrey Sussex	Buckinghamshire Cambridgeshire Essex Hertfordshire Middlesex Suffolk	Avon Cornwall Devon Wiltshire

### Over 65s

North	Midlands	S & E		South West
Cheshire Lancashire 1 Lancashire 2 Yorkshire	Leicestershire Nottinghamshire Shropshire Warwickshire Worcestershire 1 Worcestershire 2	Essex Hertfordshire Kent Middlesex Suffolk Surrey Sussex		Avon Devon 1 Devon 2 Wiltshire

### Over 70s

South West	East	South	North
Avon Cornwall Devon Dorset Hampshire 1 Somerset	Essex Kent Surrey 2 Sussex 2	Berkshire Hampshire 2 I.O.W Surrey 1 Sussex 1 Wiltshire	Cheshire Lancashire 1 Lancashire 2 Leicestershire Staffordshire Yorkshire 1 Yorkshire 2

### Over 75s

Essex Kent Middlesex Sussex

# MASTERS COUNTY CHALLENGE

## Divisions January 11/12<sup>th</sup> 2025

Over 40 Premier	Over 45 Premier	Over 50 Premier	Over 55 Premier	Over 60 Premier	Over 65 Premier
<b>Playing at</b>	<b>Playing at</b>	<b>Playing at</b>	<b>Playing at</b>	<b>Playing at</b>	<b>Playing at</b>
<b>Milton Keynes</b>	<b>Worcester</b>	<b>Milton Keynes</b>	<b>Worcester</b>	<b>Milton Keynes</b>	<b>Dudley/Doug Ellis</b>
Bedfordshire	Derbyshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex	Cheshire	Cheshire
Cambridgeshire 1	Essex	Hampshire	Hertfordshire	East Scotland	Glasgow N
Cheshire	Glasgow N	Kent	Kent	Essex	Kent
Devon	Lancashire	Lancashire	Lancashire	Hampshire	Lancashire 1
Hampshire	Surrey 1	Middlesex	Surrey	Suffolk	Lancashire 2
Lancashire	Sussex	Nottingham 1	Sussex	Surrey 1	Surrey
Middlesex	Yorkshire	W of Scotland	Worcestershire	Yorkshire	Yorkshire
<b>Over 40 Div 1A</b>	<b>Over 45 Div 1A</b>	<b>Over 50 Div 1A</b>	<b>Over 55 Div 1A</b>	<b>Over 60 Div 1A</b>	<b>Over 65 Div 1A</b>
<b>Playing at</b>	<b>Playing at</b>	<b>Playing at</b>	<b>Playing at</b>	<b>Playing at</b>	<b>Playing at</b>
<b>Worcester</b>	<b>Dudley/Doug Ellis</b>	<b>Dudley/Doug Ellis</b>	<b>Dudley/Doug Ellis</b>	<b>Worcester</b>	<b>Dudley/Doug Ellis</b>
Leicestershire	Berkshire	Gloucestershire	Cheshire	Buckinghamshire	Middlesex
Lincolnshire	Buckinghamshire	Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire	Cambridgeshire	Nottinghamshire
Nottinghamshire	Cheshire	Nottingham 2	Norfolk	Hertfordshire	Shropshire
Staffordshire	Norfolk	Worcestershire	Nottinghamshire	Lancashire	Suffolk
Warwickshire	Nottinghamshire	Yorkshire	Warwickshire	Shropshire	Wiltshire
Worcestershire			Yorkshire	Wiltshire	Worcestershire
Yorkshire				Worcestershire	W of Scotland
	PLAY TWICE	PLAY TWICE			

# MASTERS COUNTY

## CHALLENGE 2024/2025

### Divisions

Over 40 Div 1B	Over 45 Div 1B	Over 50 Div 1B	Over 55 Div 1B	Over 60 Div 1B	Over 65 Div 1B
Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at
<b>Eastleigh</b>	<b>Bournemouth</b>	<b>Eastleigh</b>	<b>Eastleigh</b>	<b>Eastleigh</b>	<b>Eastleigh</b>
Avon	Hampshire	Avon	Avon	Avon	Avon
Berkshire	Kent	Bedfordshire	Buckinghamshire	Cornwall	Devon 1
Cambridgeshire 2	Middlesex	Devon	Devon	Devon	Devon 2
Oxfordshire	Surrey 2	Essex	Hampshire	Kent	Essex
Surrey	Wiltshire	Hertfordshire	Somerset	Middlesex	Hertfordshire
Sussex		Surrey	Wiltshire	Surrey 2	Sussex
Wales		Wiltshire		Sussex	
	PLAY TWICE				

Over 40 Div 2B	OVER 50 DIV 2B	Over 70 Premier	Over 70 Div 1A	Over 70 Div 1B	Over 70 Div 2B
Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at
<b>Bournemouth</b>	<b>Bournemouth</b>	<b>Worcester</b>	<b>Dudley/Doug Ellis</b>	<b>Eastleigh</b>	<b>Bournemouth</b>
Buckinghamshire	Cornwall	Avon	Berkshire	Cornwall	I.O.W
Gloucestershire	Dorset	Essex	Cheshire	Devon	Kent 2
Hertfordshire	Oxfordshire	Hampshire	Lancashire 2	Kent 1	Middlesex
Kent	Suffolk	Lancashire 1	Staffordshire	Somerset	Surrey 2
Somerset	Sussex	Leicestershire	Sussex 2	Sussex 1	
Suffolk	Wales	Surrey 1	Wiltshire		
Wiltshire		Yorkshire 1	Yorkshire 2		
				PLAY TWICE	PLAY TWICE

## MASTERS COUNTY CHALLENGE VENUES 2024/25

Eastleigh				
040 Div 1B	050 Div 1B	055 Div 1B	060 Div 1B	065 Div 1B
Avon	Avon	Avon	Avon	Avon
Berkshire	Bedfordshire	Buckinghamshire	Cornwall	Devon 1
Cambridge 2	Devon	Devon	Devon	Devon 2
Oxfordshire	Essex	Hampshire	Kent	Essex
Surrey	Hertfordshire	Somerset	Middlesex	Hertfordshire
Sussex	Surrey	Wiltshire	Surrey 2	Sussex
Wales	Wiltshire		Sussex	
070 Div 1B				
Cornwall	Devon	Kent 1	Somerset	Sussex 1
Bournemouth				
040 Div 2B	045 Div 1B	050 Div 2B	070 Div 2B	
Buckinghamshire	Hampshire	Cornwall	I.O.W	
Gloucestershire	Kent	Dorset	Kent 2	
Hertfordshire	Middlesex	Oxfordshire	Middlesex	
Kent	Surrey 2	Suffolk	Surrey 2	
Somerset	Wiltshire	Sussex		
Suffolk		Wales		
Wiltshire				
	PLAY TWICE			
Milton Keynes				
040 Premier	050 Premier	060 Premier		
Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Cheshire		
Cambridge 1	Hampshire	East Scotland		
Cheshire	Kent	Essex		
Devon	Lancashire	Hampshire		
Hampshire	Middlesex	Suffolk		
Lancashire	Nottingham 1	Surrey 1		
Middlesex	W of Scotland	Yorkshire		

**Dudley College of Technology and Doug Ellis Sports Centre**

<b>045 Div 1A</b>	<b>050 Div 1A</b>	<b>055 Div 1A</b>	<b>065 Premier</b>	<b>065 Div 1A</b>	<b>070 Div 1A</b>
Berkshire	Gloucestershire	Cheshire	Cheshire	Middlesex	Berkshire
Buckinghamshire	Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire	Glasgow N	Nottingham	Cheshire
Cheshire	Nottingham 2	Norfolk	Kent	Shropshire	Lancashire 2
Norfolk	Worcestershire	Nottinghamshire	Lancs 1	Suffolk	Staffordshire
Nottinghamshire	Yorkshire	Warwickshire	Lancs 2	Wiltshire	Sussex 2
		Yorkshire	Surrey	Worcester	Wiltshire
			Yorkshire	W of Scotland	Yorkshire
PLAY TWICE	PLAY TWICE				

**Perdiswell Leisure Centre and Nunnery Wood Sports Complex, Worcester**

<b>040 Div 1A</b>	<b>045 Premier</b>	<b>055 Premier</b>	<b>060 Div 1A</b>	<b>070 Premier</b>
Leicestershire	Derbyshire	Essex	Buckinghamshire	Avon
Lincolnshire	Essex	Hertfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex
Nottinghamshire	Glasgow N	Kent	Hertfordshire	Hampshire
Staffordshire	Lancashire	Lancashire	Lancashire	Lancashire 1
Warwickshire	Surrey 1	Surrey	Shropshire	Leicestershire
Worcestershire	Sussex	Sussex	Wiltshire	Surrey 1
Yorkshire	Yorkshire	Worcestershire	Worcestershire	Yorkshire 1





# Regulations for the Badminton England Masters County Championships 2024/25

## GENERAL

1. The competition shall be called the Masters County Championships. It will be competed for in accordance with the following regulations, or such other regulations as Badminton England, or the Masters Policy Group (hereinafter called the Committee) may from time to time determine, and the Laws of Badminton as adopted by the Badminton World Federation.
2. The Competition 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 and these must be returned to the Championship Secretary by the closing date stipulated on the entry form. Entry fees will be invoiced direct by Badminton England. 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 DIVISIONS AND FINALS

- 4a) The country will be divided into 4 regions where possible, in which a competition for age groups over 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and 75 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:

For the Over 40,45, 50,55, and 60 age groups there will be 3 points for a win, 2 points for a winning draw, 1 point for a losing draw and none for a defeat. In the Over 65 and 70's there will be 3 points for a win and none for a defeat. In the case of a walkover three points will be given to the non-offending team and none to the defaulting 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.

Where a tie that has not been played affects the winner of a league this will be referred to the MPG to make a decision on the outcome of the final positions in the division.

f) Each year the age group winners will play off over a weekend for the National League title on a knockout 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 during the season an away team is unable to field a full team and cancels the fixture every effort must be made to rearrange the fixture, but the home side is not obliged to offer two further dates to their opponents.

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 playoff is involved when ties 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 the Masters Coordinator of each opposing county and the Championship Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> August preceding the season of competition. This should be achieved by using the Confirmation of Home Fixtures Form supplied.

- 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 Over 65 & Over 70 ties 6 court hours should be allowed. For an Over 75 tie 4 court hours should be allowed.
- d) When a tie is cancelled by the away team, and the home team can demonstrate that cancellation charges for hall hire will be incurred, then the away team may be asked to pay (or contribute towards) the cost. If a tie is

cancelled because of bad weather, then any costs should be shared by the two counties.

- e) The home team is responsible for all the tie expenses and should provide light refreshments.
- f) If a fixture is postponed or rearranged the home county must advise the Championships Secretary as soon as possible and if appropriate the new date and details if amended.
- g) Feather shuttlecocks must be used.

## **ELIGIBILITY of PLAYERS**

- 6a) All players must be eligible to play for their county under the current County Competition regulations.
  - (i) If a player is playing in the Masters County Challenge, that player must play for the same county if that county enters a team of the appropriate age group within the Masters County Championships. If such a team is not entered, the player may play for another county provided that the player is otherwise eligible.
  - (ii) No player shall play for more than one county in the Championships during the same season of competition
  - (iii) A player must be a member of Badminton England and hold a current and valid Compete Membership. Players not living in England and members of another association must be registered as a non-resident.
  - (iv) Every player will be required to hold a Compete Membership to be eligible to represent their county within the Master's Championship. To assist counties every match can be played using one "wild card" to cover last minute non-compete players up to 31<sup>st</sup> December each year, AND from January 1<sup>st</sup> may have up to two "wild cards" for any match. The Challenge weekend will count as one "wild card". A player may only have two wild cards in a season which may be two Championship matches or one Championship match and the Challenge weekend. If that player plays again without a compete licence their games will be voided.
- b) Players must be over the age of 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and 75 at the start of a tie, except any over 40 team may play up to two players aged over 38 at the start of a tie.
- c) Nominations for squad members in all teams must be made before that county's first tie or by 31<sup>st</sup> October, whichever is earlier. Details of subsequent players added to a squad must also be advised as soon as possible to the Championship Secretary before they compete.
- d) A player who has been nominated for a particular team may play as a reserve for other teams on three occasions in total. An 'occasion' means a Championship tie; or a play-off; or the semi-final/final weekend (i.e. The semi-final and final is only considered as a single occasion).

If a player is found to have exceeded the three reserve appearances, then the scores in the first three ties will stand but the scores in any subsequent reserve

appearances will be conceded to the opponents. The player will be allowed to play for the team for which he/she was originally nominated in any remaining ties.

Players will be allowed to play for two teams on the same day providing they qualify age wise and are not exceeding three reserve appearances and that it does not cause undue delay. A player nominated in a lower age group may play as often as they like in the Over 75's without effecting reserve appearances.

- e) Where counties have 2 teams or more 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 and over 70 age group, for which at least 3 men and 3 women must be nominated. Nominations must be sent to the Championships 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 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 or one tie and a play off. 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 or a play off to qualify to play in the finals.
- g) If a team is withdrawn after the competition has begun all fixtures played by that team shall be discounted.

## **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 or over 70 team should consist of a minimum of 3 men and 3 women and with a maximum of 5 men and 5 women. An over 75 team should consist of 2 men and 2 ladies with a maximum of 3 men and 3 ladies.

## **THE TIE**

- 8a) (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 & 70 age groups  
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
- (i) Over 75 age group  
A tie will consist of 6 matches. There will be men's and ladies' doubles followed by 1v 1 mixed, 2 v 2 mixed and reverse. Mixed pairs must be in order of strength.
- b) Completed 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.
- d) *Note: there shall be NO intervals when a side reaches 11 points in a game, NOR be between the first and second or second and third games.*
- e) In the event of an injury, illness or emergency in the first round of men's or women's doubles a substitute (if available) may play in the second round. An injury, illness or emergency 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).

In the event of an injury, illness or emergency 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, illness or emergency 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.

A substitution can be made using a player who has played for another team on the same day provided they qualify age wise, are not exceeding three reserve appearances and that it does not cause undue delay. It should be borne in mind that even if the substitute plays only a mixed match it will count as a reserve appearance. Any substitution must not cause undue delay.

**Players may only play in one team at the playoffs. Substitutes cannot be used from players in other participating teams. Also players may play in only one team for the finals weekend. Substitutes cannot be used from players who are playing in another team at the event.**

- f) The winner will be decided on the higher number of matches won. Should the tie finish level on matches, 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 1<sup>st</sup> mixed (see regulation 4e regarding the points awarded for draws). In the Over 65 and Over 70 age group the winner of a tie will be the team winning the most matches.
- g) Full results shall be submitted online within 7 days by the TEAM PLAYING AT HOME. A county failing to comply shall be fined £25 on each occasion. On the first occasion the home county does not submit the result within 7 days they will receive a written warning allowing a further 7 days before the fine is imposed.

The away county shall have a further 7 days to confirm the result. If this is not done, then it will be assumed to be correct, and the Championship Secretary will confirm the result 14 days after the match.

Any dispute must be raised with the Championship Secretary within 14 days of the match.

## **COMMITTEE POWERS**

- 9 The Masters 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.



# Regulations for the Badminton England Masters County Challenge 2024/25

## GENERAL

- 1 The competitions shall be called the Masters County Challenge. They shall be competed annually in accordance with the following regulations, or such other regulations as Badminton England, or the Masters 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 Challenge 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 Separate challenge teams shall be run for Over 40s, Over 45s, Over 50s, Over 55s, Over 60s, Over 65s, and Over 70's.
- 4 Entry forms will be circulated to counties in April, and these must be returned to the Challenge or Championship Secretary by the stipulated closing date. Counties may enter more than one team in each age group. Entry fees will be invoiced directly by Badminton England.
- 5 The Challenge will be held over the second Saturday/Sunday in January annually at various venues, to be arranged by the Challenge Organiser. Feather shuttlecocks will be used.

## DIVISIONS

- 6 Teams will be placed in strength order as determined by the Committee, with a Premier Division, followed by Divisions 1A and 1B based on strength and geographical location and then 2A and 2B likewise. This is subject to entries received by Badminton England.
- 7 At the end of the season, the two lowest teams from each age group in the Premier Division will be relegated to Division 1. The top team from 1A and from 1B in each age group will be promoted to the Premier Division. The lowest team in each age group from Division 1A and from 1B will be relegated to Division 2 provided there is a relevant age group. The top team from 2A and from 2B in each group will be promoted to Division 1. However, there may be circumstances which need to be considered in respect of promotion and relegation. The Committee's decisions on these circumstances will be final.

## ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 8 All players must be eligible to play for their county under the current County Competition regulations.

If a player is playing in the Masters County Championships, that player must play for the same county if that county enters a team of the appropriate age group within Masters County Challenge. If such a team is not entered the player may play for another county provided, he/she is eligible.

- (a) A player must possess a Compete membership with Badminton England through either Club or Direct membership. Players not living in England and members of another association must be registered as a non-resident.
- (b) Every player will be required to hold a Compete Membership to be eligible to represent their county within the Masters' Challenge. To assist counties every team can use up to two "wild cards" for the whole weekend to cover last minute non-compete players. A player may only have two wild cards in a season which may be two Championship matches or one Championship match and the Challenge weekend. If that player plays again without a compete licence their games will be voided.
- 9 Players must have reached, or be over, the appropriate age category on the day they are due to play. As a concession a team Over 40 may use up to two players who are Over 38 at the time of the first event.

## TERMINOLOGY

- 10 Tie – competition between one county and another.  
Event – a Women's Doubles, a Men's Doubles or a Mixed Doubles.  
Match – an event consisting of 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.  
*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.*

## TEAMS

- 11 Each squad, except the Over 65s, Over 70s and Over 75's should consist of not less than 4 women and 4 men and not more than 6 women and 6 men. Over 65s and Over 70s squads should consist of not less than 3 women and 3 men and not more than 5 women and 5 men. Before the competition starts each team must submit the names of all its squad members to the Referee, or if one is not appointed, the appropriate Organising Committee.

Provided it does not contravene the maximum number of nominations for a squad and that they are eligible for the age groups, a player may be nominated in more than one age group. The player(s) would have to be included on both team sheets and once he/she has played he/she is committed to that team for the whole weekend.

Teams may be changed for each tie within the parameters of the squad that has been nominated, as set out above.

No player may play in more than one event in any one tie.

No substitution shall be permitted in a match at any stage once play in that match has commenced (i.e., once the first service has started).

If a team is unable to field a full team in a tie they must try and arrange for an ineligible player to play (either a player who has not reached the qualifying age, a player playing in

more than one event in that tie, or a player from another county team). They must inform the referee 30 minutes before the tie which event they will be forfeiting and at that time whether they are able to field an ineligible player or not. The referee will notify the opposition who shall be allowed to rightfully alter their pairings before the tie starts and the 2 games of the forfeited event will be awarded to them 21-0, 21-0. The ineligible player would not be able to play the 1<sup>st</sup> mixed doubles where pairs must play in order of strength. Failure of a team to declare an ineligible player would mean a 4-0 or 3-0 defeat depending on the age group.

## **FORMAT OF A TIE**

- 12 The competition will be played as ties between the county teams with each team playing each of the other teams in the group.

In the Over 40s, 45s, 50s, 55s and 60s age groups a tie shall consist of four events:

A Women's Doubles, a Men's Doubles, a 1<sup>st</sup> Mixed Doubles and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Mixed Doubles. The Mixed pairs must be ranked in order of strength.

In the Over 65s and Over 70s a tie shall consist of three events: A Women's Doubles, a Men's Doubles and a Mixed Doubles.

- 13 The order of play shall be as above, unless otherwise agreed by the Referee, or if one is not appointed, the Organising Committee.

Pairs shall play at such time and on such court as may be specified by the Referee, or if one is not appointed, the appropriate Organising Committee.

- 14 Before commencement of each tie, teams will exchange team sheets giving the eight names (or six for Over 65s and Over 70s  
15 ) and their pairings to play that tie with the mixed doubles pairs, where appropriate, ranked in order of strength.

- 16 If a match shall not be completed the existing score (if any) of the defaulting pair shall stand and their opponents shall be credited with the number of points and games required to win as appropriate.

- 17 The decision of a tie shall be determined by the number of matches won. In the event of both teams being unable to field a pair for a match it will be deemed "not played" and neither team will be awarded the match or part thereof. Teams will be awarded 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss. For the O65's and Over 70s team 2 points for a win and 0 points for a loss.



## **GROUP POSITIONS**

- 18 The position of each team in each age group shall be determined as follows:
- a) the number of points awarded.
  - b) if two teams are equal, the winner of the tie between them. If drawn, then count back from that tie of games won to lost and if still equal then count back from that tie on points won to lost and if still equal then the result of the first mixed.
  - c) If three or more teams are equal, then the team(s) with the most wins. If there are two teams left with the same number of wins then 17b applies.
  - d) if two teams are still equal the winner of the tie between them as in (b).
  - e) if three or more teams are still equal the team from among them for whom, overall, matches won minus matches lost is greatest.
  - f) if two teams are still equal the winner of the tie between them as in 17b applies.
  - g) if three or more teams are still equal the team from among them for whom, overall, games won minus games lost is greatest.
  - h) if two teams are still equal the winner of the tie between them as in 17b applies.
  - i) If three or more teams are still equal the team from among them for whom overall points won minus points lost is greatest.
  - j) If two teams are still equal the winner of the tie between them as in 17b applies.

## **TROPHIES**

- 19 A perpetual trophy will be awarded to the champion county in each age group of the Premier Division. The trophies will remain the property of Badminton England, which shall be responsible for insurance, but the holders shall be responsible for their care and maintenance.

## **GENERAL**

- 20 Badminton England's current Tournament Regulations shall apply.
- 21 The Masters 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.

# The Badminton England Masters County Championships 2024/25

## COORDINATORS CONTACT DETAILS

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# The Badminton England Masters County Challenge Past Winners

	Over 40s	Over 45s	Over 50s	Over 55s	Over 60s	Over 65s	Over 70s
1986	LANCS	YORKS					
1987	LANCS	YORKS	ESSEX				
1988	LANCS	MIDDX	LANCS				
1989	DURHAM	YORKS	SURREY				
1990	KENT	KENT	ESSEX				
1991	LANCS	KENT	SURREY				
1992	LANCS	KENT	ESSEX				
1993	ESSEX	KENT	NOTTS	ESSEX			
1994	LANCS	LANCS	YORKS	SURREY			
1995	ESSEX	ESSEX	YORKS	ESSEX			
1996	ESSEX	LANCS	NOTTS	YORKS	MIDDX		
1997	ESSEX	LANCS	LANCS	CUMBRIA	HANTS		
1998	DURHAM	LANCS	NOTTS	LANCS	ESSEX		
1999	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	YORKS	CUMBRIA		
2000	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	SURREY	NOTTS		
2001	SURREY	LANCS	ESSEX	NOTTS	NOTTS		
2002	DEVON	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	CUMBRIA		
2003	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	YORKS	CUMBRIA	
2004	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	YORKS	CUMBRIA	
2005	HERTS	LANCS	LANCS	LANCS	LANCS	NOTTS	
2006	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	ESSEX	KENT	NOTTS	
2007	ESSEX	LANCS	SURREY	ESSEX	KENT	NOTTS	
2008	ESSEX	LANCS	SURREY	ESSEX	KENT	YORKS	
2009	HERTS	CHESH	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	YORKS	
2010	HERTS	ESSEX	LANCS	LANCS	KENT	KENT	CUMBRIA
2011	GLOUCS	DERBYS	SURREY	LANCS	HANTS	HANTS	HANTS
2012	GLOUCS	HERTS	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	NOTTS
2013	CHESHIRE	HERTS	LANCS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	DORSET
2014	LEICS	HERTS	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	DEVON
2015	ESSEX	W. SCOT	SURREY	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	HANTS
2016	ESSEX	HERTS	ESSEX	SURREY	SURREY	YORKS	KENT
2017	ESSEX	ESSEX	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	YORKS	KENT
2018	YORKS	HERTS	LANCS	LANCS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT
2019	ESSEX	HANTS	YORKS	YORKS	LANCS	SURREY	KENT
2020	ESSEX	HERTS	ESSEX	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCS	KENT
2021	NO COMPETITION DUE TO CORONA VIRUS						
2022	NO COMPETITION DUE TO CORONA VIRUS						
2023	LANCS	YORKS	HANTS	ESSEX	YORKS	SURREY	KENT
2024	CAMBS	YORKS	HANTS	ESSEX	HANTS	SURREY	LANCS
2025							
2026							

## The Badminton England Masters County Championships Past Winners

	Over 40s	Over 45s	Over 50s	Over 55s	Over 60s	Over 65s	Over 70s	Over 75s
2000	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	LANCS	NOTTS			
2001	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	KENT	CUMBRIA			
2002	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	KENT	CUMBRIA			
2003	DERBYS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	YORKS			
2004	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	YORKS	CHESHIRE		
2005	LANCS	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	HANTS	NOTTS		
2006	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	STAFFS	KENT	CUMBRIA		
2007	ESSEX	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	NOTTS		
2008	LANCS	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	HANTS	YORK		
2009	GLOUCS	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	CUMBRIA		
2010	CHESHIRE	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	KENT		
2011	CHESHIRE	LANCS	SURREY	LANCS	YORKS	HANTS		
2012	ESSEX	LANCS	YORKS	SURREY	SURREY	KENT	DORSET	
2013	GLOUCS	ESSEX	YORKS	SURREY	SURREY	HANTS	DEVON	
2014	ESSEX	ESSEX	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	DEVON	
2015	YORKS	ESSEX	YORKS	YORKS	LANCS	KENT	WILTS	
2016	ESSEX	ESSEX	ESSEX	SURREY	ESSEX	YORKS	KENT	
2017	YORKS	ESSEX	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	KENT	
2018	YORKS	GLOUCS	YORKS	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	
2019	YORKS	GLOUCS	ESSEX	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	
2020	NO FINALS DUE TO CORONA VIRUS							WILTS
2021	NO COMPETITION DUE TO CORONA VIRUS							
2022	STAFFS	GLOUCS	HANTS	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCS	LEICS	KENT
2023	CAMBS	SUSSEX	HANTS	ESSEX	YORKS	LANCS	ESSEX	KENT
2024	STAFFS	YORKS	NOTTS	ESSEX	YORKS	SURREY	SURREY	KENT
2025								
2026								