

Newmarket Badminton Federation (NBF)

Approved Federation and League Rules

1. The name shall be the Newmarket Badminton Federation.
2. The Federation shall be governed by a Committee comprising of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and at least two other people. Every club should where possible submit at least one candidate for election (who may be a serving committee member - all of whom are eligible to stand for re-election), at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting. The committee members will be appointed by election at the Annual General Meeting. The committee members will decide how to fill specific posts.
3. The annual affiliation fee and league entry fees shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting preceding each season.
4. Each club with teams competing in the Newmarket and District Badminton Federation leagues must be affiliated to the Badminton of England and pay their club subscription fees by 30th November of the current season.
5. All matches must be arranged directly between club secretaries and must be completed by 30th April of each season. For mixed matches, teams comprise of 3 pairs playing round robin, resulting in 9 rubbers. In the case of ladies and men's matches, teams are of four players nominated A, B, C and D with A being the highest ranked player and so on and playing in rotation. Format: Pairs AB and CD play one rubber each, pairs AC and BD play one rubber, then again AD and BC play one rubber (total six rubbers). Important note for team captains: one rubber now consists of the best of three using the rally points scoring system.
6. Each club shall arrange their fixtures for each team, half before 31st December and the remaining half before 30th April.
7. In the circumstances when a club cannot field a team for a match, the opposing club must be contacted as soon as possible, ideally 24 hours ahead of the match. This match must be rearranged at a mutually agreeable time where possible and ideally within the same half of the season. If both clubs do not agree, the match may only be altered due to the unavailability of the hall or bad weather conditions. In the event of a match being cancelled the offending team shall concede the match 0 - 9. The away side seeking cancellation must also pay £20 towards costs incurred by the home side (court costs and loss of match fee income).
8. Each club is to be awarded two points for a win and one point for a draw, and in the event of two or more clubs tying with equal points, league placing will be determined by the number of rubbers or games won.

9. All league games will be controlled by umpires appointed with the mutual consent of the opposing captains. Games may be played without umpires providing both captains agree to such a measure.
10. Players can represent only one club in the mixed leagues, the men's leagues and the ladies' leagues during any one season.
11. Formation of divisions will be agreed at the Annual General Meeting to be held before the end of September and 21 days notice of the annual meeting will be given.
12. Clubs may enter more than one team in any league:
 - a) A player who has played twice in the `A` team or first team shall be termed a first team player. A player who has played twice in the `B` or second team shall be termed a second team player. A second or `B` team may contain one first team player and a third or `C` team may include one second team player. Qualification as a first or second team player lasts one season. Where a club has two teams in any one division, then for any one match, one player only from the `B` or second team can play up into the `A` or first team.
 - b) If a club has two teams in a division, they can elect to demote one team to the division below, being replaced by the top team of that lower division. This can only occur when arising from one team being demoted to the division (and only two years running for any one club). Notice must be given to the Secretary before the Annual General Meeting and agreed at the Annual General Meeting with other clubs having teams in that division.
13. All league entries must be submitted at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting, thereby enabling the committee to compose the League Tables for the forthcoming season to present to the Annual General Meeting. Late entries may only be accepted in certain cases.
14. Any federated club member may attend the Annual General Meeting but only one representative of each club will be entitled to vote.
15. Rules may only be altered at an Annual General Meeting or a meeting specially convened for that purpose. Notice in writing of any resolution or amendment to rules must be forwarded to the Secretary at least seven clear days before any such meeting.
16. The Committee will have the sole jurisdiction over any matter not covered by the rules and powers to deal with infringement of any rule. The Chairman will have a casting vote at any committee or general meeting.
17. If a player is forced to retire during a match because of injury or illness, that game and any of his/her subsequent games must be forfeited. On no account may a substitute be used or another player of the team play any remaining games for the injured player.

18. Host clubs are responsible for providing refreshment - tea or minerals, and biscuits only - nets etc. Feather shuttles must be used in all top division matches and tournaments. The use of alternative cork based shuttles may be used for all other league matches at the discretion of the home club. Local court rules must be made clear to opposing clubs prior to the match commencing.
19. Any club not able to play a home fixture at its own hall and having to pay and `all away` programme must act as host club, including paying all hall hire charges, on one of its two matches during the season with each opposing club.
20. Every club shall keep a score book for league purposes only and at the end of a match each captain shall sign both books as a true record.
21. Score cards must be completed, signed by both team captains and returned by the home team to the results co-ordinator so that it can be included in the results and league tablets. Clubs failing to send in match report sheets within seven days after a match shall face disciplinary action. In the first instance a caution, secondly a £10 fine and thirdly complete expulsion from the league.
22. If, during any season, a team is forced to withdraw from a league then all results recorded during that season will be deducted from the league table.

If a club with more than one team in a league wishes to withdraw a team, then the team placed lowest in the league is the one which must be withdrawn. If a team is withdrawn before the leagues are agreed at the Annual General Meeting, it is not eligible for re-admission to the league until the following season when re-entering the bottom division.