

Constitution and Rules of the Mid-Wilts Badminton Association

Name	I.	The name shall be called the Mid-Wilts Badminton Association (hereinafter referred to as the Association) and shall comprise of Clubs within a 17 mile radius of Melksham
Objects	2.	The objects of the Association shall be the fostering of the game of badminton within the Association by all methods not contrary to the Badminton England (B.E).
Constitution	3.1	All Clubs of which the object is Badminton, and having courts within the Association must be affiliated to the Wiltshire County Badminton Association (W.C.B.A).
	3.2	All Clubs affiliated to W.C.B.A (hereinafter referred to as Affiliated Clubs) shall ipso facto be affiliated to the B.E and shall conform to it's rules.
Subscriptions	4	The Annual subscription for entering teams to play in the Leagues shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting, and shall be due at the Annual Fixture Meeting. Any Club failing to pay this affiliation fee at the due time may incur a 100% surcharge payable no later than September 30 th of the current season. Should no payment be received by this time the defaulting Club may be excluded from the League, this at the discretion of the committee.
Annual General Meeting	5.1	An annual General Meeting shall be held on the fourth Monday of April each year.
	5.2	21 days written notice of the A.G.M. shall be given to all Clubs, such notice to state matters that any Club wish to be included on the Agenda shall be notified to the Hon. Secretary no less than 14 days before the meeting. Matters not included on the Agenda cannot be voted upon at the A.G.M.
	5.3	Each Club will be represented by at least one member. The penalty for a Club failing to attend the A.G.M. is at the discretion of the Committee who could decide to exclude the Club from the League. All members of the Clubs may attend and speak at the A.G.M., but voting shall be by one member only of the Club.
	5.4	A special General Meeting may be called at any time by the committee or on the request in writing by six affiliated Clubs. The purpose of the meeting must be specified and no other business other than that specified may be transacted thereat. At least 14 days notice of such meetings must be given to all Clubs.
Administration	6.1	The officers of the Association shall consist of a President (Hon.), Chairman, Secretary, Match Secretary, Treasurer and Tournament Secretary, and shall be elected at the A.G.M. holding office for one year, and shall be eligible for re-election. If an equal number of votes fall to two candidates, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.
	6.2	The committee shall have the power to fill a vacancy in the post of Chairman, Secretary, Match Secretary, Treasurer and Tournament Secretary, until the next season.
	6.3	The committee shall consist of the Officers, 3 Wiltshire County Representatives, a Ladies/Men's/All Mixed Match Secretary's and a junior Coordinator (Linked to the County).
	6.4	The Committee shall meet at least once a year. The Hon. Secretary may call a meeting at any time, or if requested by three members of the committee. All committee meetings shall be convened properly and half the members shall form a quorum. Minutes shall be taken at these meetings and shall be open to inspection by any Club representative on application to the secretary provided that suitable notice is given.

	6.5	The Hon. Treasurer shall produce an audited statement of accounts at the A.G.M. for each year ending March 31 st .
Alteration of Rules	7.	The rules of the Association may only be altered at the A.G.M. on ordinary notice being given, Unless proposed by the committee, the alteration shall be considered by the committee prior to submission to the A.G.M. agenda. The Hon. Secretary will include brief details of any proposed alterations on the notice of Agenda.
Leagues	8.1	All Association Leagues shall consist of one or more divisions of not more than eight teams, with the possible exception of the last two divisions. These divisions of all Leagues shall as much as possible be structured to arrange 12 matches per season per team. Not more than two teams per club shall play in the same division. Any club/team withdrawing from a League during the season shall have all its previous matches declared null and void. On wishing to re-enter the following season, its divisional position shall be at the discretion of the Committee. This means that the club or team may find they are required to re-enter in a lower division.
	8.2	If one or more teams during the season merge, then the teams entered by the merged clubs shall take up the divisional positions of the original clubs, but with a new name if applicable. The Committee shall ensure that in carrying out this rule no other rule is infringed. If so, the teams shall be relocated within the divisions at the discretion of the Committee.
Registration	9.1	4/2 Mixed League A player may only play for one club and an official registration form must be signed by the player and sent to the Association's Fixture Secretary. In the event of a "last minute" addition, the Association's Fixture Secretary must be notified prior to that player's first match. Notification by email (preferable) or SMS text message/phone call is acceptable, but does not remove obligation to provide a signed registration form. If a club enters more than one team in a League, its players shall be registered for the team which it is intended they play and all team registrations shall be submitted together. Gentlemen registered for a lower team may only play twice for a higher team of the club and ladies may play three times. On the 3rd/4th occasion respectively that player shall automatically be registered for the higher team. In the event of a third team being entered, in the unusual circumstances of players from the lowest team playing for the highest team, the player is considered to having played for both higher teams. A higher team member cannot play for a lower team of the club without sanction of the Committee. A decision by the Committee shall be made within two weeks of a written request being received.
	9.2	Ladies, Doubles and the 3/3 Mixed Leagues. Registrations must be on the official form, but this need not be for the club that holds their 4/2 Mixed League registration. The form, when signed, must be sent to the Association's Fixture Secretary. Registration of these teams, particularly the 3/3 Mixed, must be regarded as separate to the 4/2 Mixed. In the new doubles league pairs can consist of 2 men, 2 ladies or a man and lady.
	9.3	Failure to comply with either Rules 2.1 or 2.2 will mean that all games by the player(s) involved will be deemed to have lost 21-0/21-0.
Transfer	10	A player may only be transferred during the season at the discretion of the Committee. Transfer requests must be made in

- writing and sent to the Association's Fixture Secretary. A decision by the Committee shall be made within two weeks of the request.
- Matches**
- 11.1 All matches, including the Knock-Out Cup, must be played between the 2nd week of September and the 2nd week of April. Matches played outside of that will be null and void. The Committee may extend beyond this timeline at their discretion, but only in extenuating circumstances, e.g. Rule 14.3.
- 11.2 The scoring of matches is 1 point per rubber, plus 2 bonus points for a win, i.e. team 'A' wins match 5 rubbers to 4, team 'A' receives 7 points instead of 5. In the event of a drawn match, the Association's Fixture Secretary shall determine the allocation of bonus points.
- 11.3 All matches shall consist of 9 rubbers, excluding the Ladies division that shall be 6 rubbers. All rubbers are best of three games to 21 points with extended play if required, unless otherwise agreed by both team captains prior to the onset of the match, when rubbers may be 1 game of 21 points with no extended play. In cases where insufficient time is not available for the full match to be concluded in one evening, the teams must decide to conclude the match on another night or agree a satisfactory arrangement as to the final result. This must not infringe other Rules and the Association's Fixture Secretary must be notified within three days of the original match date.
- 11.4 Each team must have the required number of pairs on court, warmed up and ready to play, within 15 minutes of the start time to match court quantity available from the home team (unless otherwise agreed by the captains prior to the onset of the match). When unavailability of any pair from either team interrupts or wholly prevents the order of play, the disadvantaged team's captain is to make a case to the Association's Fixture Secretary if the match is subsequently unable to finish as planned.
- 11.5 Team pairings shall be ranked in order of strength, pairings and rankings for the full match shall be exchanged simultaneously by both team's captains prior to the match and written on the score sheet. These shall not be subsequently changed except with the consent of the opposing captain.
- 11.6 In the event of a player becoming injured during a match and being unfit to continue, those rubbers he/she are unable to complete shall be concluded and scored 21 points against while the points scored counted. The remaining rubbers conceded by the injured player shall be those he/she was nominated to play prior to the commencement of the match and scored 21-0/21-0 against.
- 11.7 Match result sheets must be filled in correctly, signed by both team captains and received by the Association's Fixture Secretary within seven days of the match being played. A penalty of 2 points shall be deducted from a team that fails to return their score sheet on time.
- 11.8 Conceding. If any team concedes three matches in a season, they are deemed to have withdrawn from that League. The matches already played in these instances will be declared null and void and all scores deleted. The following season the team shall be relegated to the bottom division. In the event of a walkover (concession), the defaulting team shall be deducted 2 points, whilst the receiving team shall receive nine points gained against the defaulting team in the matches. The Committee reserves the right to intervene and further adjust points where justified or warranted. All action will be recorded

		and teams informed of the Committee's decision in advance of the AGM. The Committee's decision is final.
	11.9	That all first, second and third division matches in the League shall play with cork-based feather shuttlecocks complying to BE laws of pace and flight.
	11.10	All other League matches, tournaments and competitions, shall play with cork-based shuttlecocks conforming to BE laws on pace and flight be used.
	11.11	If a club has two teams in the same division, they shall play each other twice as per the final publish schedule (see Rule 7.2). The first leg shall be played before 31 October and the second leg no later than 31 January each season.
	11.12	If at the end of a season two teams are equal on points their position will be determined by number of matches won, number of games won then number of aces won.
	11.13	No player shall play more than one matches for any team, club or division on the same night. Where a player is unable to play then rules 4.7 and 4.10 apply.
	11.14	Playing-up (for a club's leading or senior team(s). A doubles player is permitted to 'play up' only two times in a league season irrespective of gender.
Promotion and Relegation	12	All Association Leagues. Each year the top team of a division shall be promoted and the bottom relegated. The club finishing second in the lower division shall have the opportunity to challenge the team finishing second from bottom in the higher division for their place in that higher division. If the team from the higher division loses, they are relegated. The challenged team shall provide the courts and the challenger shall provide the shuttlecocks. These matches are to be played before the AGM of the current season.
Knock-Out Cup	13.1	Players shall only play in this competition for the club that holds their 4/2 Mixed League registration. A club may enter a team representing each of their 4/2 Mixed League teams into this competition. A member may only represent one team per season in Cup matches. In the event of a club who only has a 3/3 Mixed team and not a 4/2 Mixed team, entry will be considered on request to the Association's Fixture Secretary and will be at the discretion of the Committee.
	13.2	A team shall consist of four men and two ladies playing 4 men's doubles, 1 ladies double and 4 mixed doubles. A match shall consist of 9 rubbers of 2 games to 21 points with NO extended play, and must be played within the timeline stated at the Annual Fixture Meeting, otherwise the defaulting team shall forfeit the match. The result of the match shall be decided on a points basis including the handicap. In the event of a draw the match shall be replayed at the away team's home venue. If after a replay teams are still tied; the toss of a coin shall decide the result. In the final, if the two are tied then the Trophy is shared between the clubs.
	13.3	The final shall be played at a neutral venue decided by the Committee on the date given to both teams.
Fixtures	14.1	The Annual Fixture Meeting shall be held on the first Monday in September of each year, unless otherwise advised by the Committee. Each club must be represented at this meeting by at least one member to ensure prepared fixtures schedules are distributed. The penalty for failing to attend will be at the discretion of the Committee, which may mean exclusion from the League(s).
	14.2	Clubs will be given until a cut-off date, usually end of September, from the Annual Fixture Meeting to finalize any

		adjustments needed to the fixture schedule and notify the Association's Fixture Secretary and affected clubs of any changes prior to the cut-off date. Thereafter, any postponement of a match from the final published schedule is subject to Rule 7.3.
	14.3	The postponement of any match is prohibited for any reason other than non-availability of courts, a clash with a tournament sponsored by the Association or WCBA, extreme weather conditions or by agreement of the Committee.
Inter-District Matches		The re-arrangement of postponed matches therein must be notified to the Association's Fixture Secretary within seven days of the original match date.
	15.1	The non-playing team captain shall be selected by the Committee. Clubs can offer suggestions of players to be included in the team squads. The Committee shall have the final decision on selection.
	15.2	A player can only be eligible for selection having played a minimum of 5 League matches in any of the Association's Leagues.
	15.3	The Association teams shall be selected by three members representing three separate clubs comprising the following: 'A' and 'B' teams – members from clubs in top divisions; Masters (the term now used to refer to veterans since 2019) team – shall consist of three masters; Junior team – members from junior clubs. The non-playing captain has the power to enlist any individuals to act as non-playing Captain for the day.
General	16	Any rule not adhered to within the Constitution and Rules of the Association will receive a penalty at the discretion of the committee.(This could mean expulsion from the league)