

## **LEAGUE RULES (updated 2009)**

### **CONSTITUTION**

1. This league shall be called "The Worcestershire Squash and Racketball Association League" (hereinafter called "the League"). The League is open to clubs based in Worcestershire and by invitation to Clubs outside the County. Only clubs which are affiliated to England Squash and Racketball are eligible to enter.
2. The object of the league is primarily that of providing competition for members of participating clubs.
3. There is no limit to the number of teams which a club may enter into the league and applications must be made to the League secretary prior to the end of July in each year.
4. The League is run under the auspices of the Worcestershire Squash and Racketball Association (hereinafter called "The Association") and the Association shall have ultimate full controlling power over its organisation and direction. The Association at its A.G.M. has power to make any ruling and give such directives (to include changes to these rules) as it sees fit (by a majority vote). The day to day administration of the League shall be dealt with as shown below.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

5. (a) The League A.G.M. shall be held in September each year and a representative of every club must attend to ratify any rule changes and collect literature for the season. Any club not sending a representative will incur a 10 point penalty for each of their teams in the League.  
(b) The League shall be governed by a committee (hereinafter called the "League Committee") consisting of a Chairman, Secretary and other members.  
(c) Voting at the A.G.M. shall be restricted to the Officers and one bona fide representative of each club belonging to the League.  
(d) The fixtures for the ensuing season shall be circulated before the A.G.M.
6. (a) The League A.G.M. shall ratify any rule changes. If a club wishes to propose any change to the Rules the proposal must be made in writing by 30<sup>th</sup> June. The Secretary shall include the proposal in the notification of the forthcoming League A.G.M. There shall be no change in the Rules of The League unless there is a majority in favour of the change.  
(b) Any matters not provided for in these Rules shall be dealt with by the League Committee. The League Committee reserves all discretionary powers to make decisions regarding League business.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

7. The Annual Subscriptions shall be fixed after consultation with the Association Treasurer by the League Committee and notification of the amount of such subscription shall be given in the notice for the League A.G.M. The amount shall be due and payable by 1<sup>st</sup> October. Club or Clubs failing to pay such amount at the correct time shall be liable to exclusion from the League. Such Club or Clubs shall have to re-apply for membership of the League at the next A.G.M. The League Committee shall have the power and discretion to allocate teams to divisions. All surplus funds after paying reasonable expenses shall be paid over to the Association.

## **TEAM CONSTITUTION ETC.**

8. (a) Teams in the Men's Leagues shall consist of five players and Ladies League four players. Their names shall be placed in the result card in ranking order prior to the start of the particular fixture. Matches shall be played in the order mutually agreed or, in the event of no mutual agreement, in the order 5.3.4.1.2. Each match will be the best of 5 games.
- (b) Players shall be bona fide members of the Clubs they represent, and may only play for one club during the Season.
- (c) The expression "bona fide" member of a club in this rule means that the player must be a member of that club on 1<sup>st</sup> October of the then current season or a member of at least 21 days standing prior to playing in any match for that club.

## **RANKING**

9. (a) In order to comply with section (a) of rule 8 each club shall supply the League Secretary with one ranked list of match players for the whole club. This will be displayed on the Worcestershire Squash website - [www.wsraonline.co.uk](http://www.wsraonline.co.uk) This list must be received prior to the first League fixture and shall remain in force until 31<sup>st</sup> December. Before 1<sup>st</sup> January each Club may submit a revised list which will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January and will last to the end of the season.
- (b) The order on these lists shall be considered to be mandatory. Club or Clubs failing to submit a list at the correct time shall be liable to lose any points earned.
- (c) In the case of any member wishing to be inserted into the ranking list during the season he can obviously be inserted for the second half (as long as he has not played for another club during the season – Rule 8b) but a written request may be made to the League Secretary for his name to be inserted in the ranking list at other times and permission may be granted at the discretion of the League Committee. (N.B. This means that no player who is not on the ranking list may play.)
- (d) Whatever the composition of a particular team, the order must conform to that on the ranked list which will be checked when match results are received. A player may never play below his ranked position but he may play above his position. A player must not play for two teams in the same calendar week or round.
- i.e. Players ranked numbers 1-5 can only play for 1<sup>st</sup> team  
6-10 can play 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> team  
11-15 can play 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> team etc.

## **REFEREEING, MARKING AND PLAY**

10. (a) It is the responsibility of the home team to referee/mark all men's matches unless otherwise agreed by the Team Captains. In the Ladies League the refereeing/markings should be divided equally between both teams.
- (b) Fixtures shall start promptly at the agreed time and Clubs should arrange court booking so that matches once started may be played to a finish (with the exception of genuine reasons for late

starting e.g. weather conditions or mechanical breakdown). Any team not being able to start within 30 minutes of the start time shall forfeit the first matches.

- (c) All matches are to be played in accordance with the rules of the England Squash and Racketball and the ball shall bear the standard mark of that association. The choice of "spot" shall be the SRA approved double yellow spot standard unless otherwise agreed by both team captains.
- (d) If an existing Club wishes to enter another team, the new team must be entered below the existing team or teams of that Club.
- (e) At the League Committee's discretion a new team can enter the Leagues other than the bottom league provided spaces are available.

11. Referees have the responsibility to ensure that players abide by the code of conduct as issued by England Squash and Racketball. Any verbal or physical abuse should be penalised under the above code.

### **POINTS AND RESULTS**

12. (a) Result cards shall be forwarded by the home club to the League secretary within 48 hours of the match taking place. If a card is not received by the League secretary within 7 days the points won by the home team may be forfeited.

(b) In the Men's Leagues every game won earns a point. 5 further points shall be awarded to the team winning the fixture. For the Ladies League points are awarded as set out on the results card. The team with the most points at the end of the season shall be adjudged the winners of the division.

(c) In the event of a tie the team with the greatest number of match wins will be adjudged the winner. If the teams are still tied, games for and against will be counted and if necessary points within the games counted.

13. If a team is a player or more short it is considered to have lost the unplayed match by default 0-3 and the unplayed matches must be at 5 and 4 etc.

14. Fixtures must be played on the agreed date unless weather or court conditions should prevent it. If a club wishes to change its designated match night they should apply, with reasons, to the League Committee.

15. The League results will be published at least "mid-season" and finally at the end of the season.

16. At the end of the season the bottom two teams in each division and the top two teams of the next lower division change places. The League Committee have the right to vary this rule in the case of any readjustment of numbers of teams in any division.

17. If a team is forced to withdraw from the league before it has completed all its fixtures all those it has played will become null and void.

### **DISPUTES AND COMPLAINTS**

18. All disputes concerning any League business should be put in writing to the League Chairman to be considered by the League committee.

## **Rules for the Worcestershire Cup**

- 1.** All matches to be played under the League Rules, with the club ranking order being adhered to. If a club enters more than one team into the Cup the ranking list applies as in the league i.e. top 5 players can only play for the first team etc. No player may play for more than one team within the competition.
- 2.** The play-by dates are listed on the Draw sheet above each round. The Men's Final and Plate Final will be held on a stipulated date with the venues to be designated by the League Chairman. The Ladies' Final will be arranged by mutual agreement with a play-by date.
- 3.** All result cards should be sent to the League Chairman (Bett Dryhurst) within 48 hours of the fixture being played.
- 4.** There is a plate competition for all teams losing their first match. If any team does not wish to enter the plate competition please inform the League Chairman. If a team fails to play their first round match (i.e. opposition has a walkover) that team will forfeit their right to enter the plate competition. The plate will be drawn after the completion of the first 2 rounds of the main competition.
- 5.** Teams to consist of 5 players for the men, 4 players for the Ladies.
- 6.** 4 teams to be seeded in the Men's draw and 2 in the Ladies'.
- 7.** To qualify for the Men's Cup a player must have played 5 league matches prior to the Christmas break. To qualify for the Ladies Cup a player must have played 3 league matches prior to the Christmas break.
- 8.** The entry fee for each team will be invoiced with the league fees prior to the start of the season.
- 9.** All disputes concerning any Cup matches should be put in writing to the League Chairman to be considered by the League committee.