



BADMINTON
ENGLAND



**COUNTY
COMPETITION**

Competition Handbook 2019-20



BADMINTON
ENGLAND

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The Badminton England Senior County Championships 2019/20

Divisions & Sections

PREMIERSHIP

**Avon
Buckinghamshire
Cheshire
Hampshire
Hertfordshire
Leicestershire
Leinster
Middlesex
Surrey
Sussex**

CHAMPIONSHIP

**Derbyshire
Essex
Glasgow and North Strathclyde
Hertfordshire 2
Lancashire
Middlesex 2
Nottinghamshire
Warwickshire
Yorkshire
Yorkshire 2**

DIVISION 1

NORTH	SOUTH
Lanarkshire	Avon 2
Northumberland	Devon
Oxfordshire	Dorset
Shropshire	Hampshire 2
Staffordshire	Kent
Ulster	Suffolk
Warwickshire 2	Surrey 2
Yorkshire 3	Wiltshire

DIVISION 2

NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH-EAST	SOUTH-WEST
Cheshire 2	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Avon 3
Cumbria	Buckinghamshire 2	Essex 2	Avon 4
Durham	Derbyshire 2	Hertfordshire 3	Cornwall
Lancashire 2	Leicestershire 2	Kent 2	Devon 2
Lothian	Lincolnshire	Middlesex 3	Dorset 2
Yorkshire 4	Northamptonshire	Norfolk	Gloucestershire
Yorkshire 5	Nottinghamshire	Sussex 2	West Glamorgan
Lancashire 3	Oxfordshire 2	Middlesex 4	Worcestershire

DIVISION 3

NORTH	CENTRAL	EAST	SOUTH-WEST
Cheshire 3	Berkshire	Cambridgeshire 2	Cornwall 2
Cumbria 2	Berkshire 2	Essex 3	Devon 3
Derbyshire 3	Leicestershire 3	Hampshire 3	Dorset 3
Isle of Man	Oxfordshire 3	Kent 3	Gloucestershire 2
Lanarkshire 2	Shropshire 2	Norfolk 2	Guernsey
Lothian 2	Staffordshire 2	Suffolk 2	Somerset
Northumberland 2	Warwickshire 3	Surrey 3	Wiltshire 2
Nottinghamshire 3	Worcestershire 2	Hertfordshire 4	Devon 4

DIVISION 4

WEST	EAST	SOUTH
Worcestershire 3	Berkshire 2	Isle of Wight
North-East Wales	Cambridgeshire 3	Somerset 2
Shropshire 3	Lincolnshire 2	Sussex 3
Staffordshire 3	Norfolk 3	Avon 5
Herefordshire	Northamptonshire 2	Cornwall 3
Lancashire 4	Lincolnshire 3	Avon 6
Isle of Man 2	Middlesex 5	Dorset 4
Warwickshire 4	Suffolk 3	Hampshire 4

Competition Dates

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3
Premiership + Championship 9 th & 10 th November 2019	Premiership + Championship 25 th & 26 th January 2020	Premiership + Championship 28 th & 29 th March 2020
Regional Divisions 10 th November 2019	Regional Divisions 25 th January 2020	Regional Divisions 28 th & 29 th March 2020

Division 1 Play-offs: Play-Offs into the Championship takes place on: 25th and 26th April 2020.



Regulations for the Badminton England Senior County Championships 2019/20

(Amendments from 2018/19 in BOLD)

SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

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

The County Championships shall be managed by Badminton England. Subject thereto each competing county shall be responsible for all matters affecting its county's teams.

The Senior County Championships shall be governed by the following Regulations.

COMPETITION STRUCTURE

2. The Championships shall comprise:
The Premiership, Championship and Regional Divisions.
 - (a) The Premiership shall comprise the top ten county first teams, 2nd teams are not permitted in the Premiership.
 - (b) **The Championship shall comprise of the 10 next best county teams. 2nd teams are permitted into the Championship division.**
 - (c) **Division 1 shall comprise the next sixteen county teams, split geographically into two sections of 8 (North and South).**
 - (d) **The remaining teams will be split into regional divisions of 8 teams. All teams will play each other once.**
 - (e) **Counties are permitted to enter any number of teams into the SCC. However, counties are only permitted to have a maximum of 1 team in the Premiership, 2 teams in a Championship and Regional divisions and shall be in the same section. 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.**

DEFINITIONS

3. For the purposes of these regulations the following definitions shall apply;
- Events - men's singles, women's singles, men's 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.

ELIGIBILITY

4. The Senior County Championships shall be open to:
- Every English 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 by and affiliated to Badminton England.
 - 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 the Badminton Union of Ireland, a group of Badminton Scotland or branch of the Welsh Badminton Union, as laid down in the constitutions of those Unions, and which shall be acceptable to Badminton England.
 - Each of those entering under (a), (b), and (c) above shall hereinafter be referred to as a 'county'.
 - All teams entering under (b) and (c) above shall play all their ties in England unless mutually agreed otherwise with their opponents.
 - Badminton England 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 not later than 31st May in any year.
 - Badminton England 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.

Definitions 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.

FILING OF ENTRIES AND ENTRY FEES

5. New teams entering the Championships, as well as teams wishing to withdraw from the Championships should notify the Championships Secretary not later than 31st March, 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.
6. **Entry fees on the following basis shall be payable 30 days net from the invoice date:**
- | | |
|--|-------------|
| (a) Premiership + Championship entry for all teams involved | £750 |
| (b) Regional Division entry for all teams involved | £700 |

TROPHIES

7. (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, Cloughton, 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 Badminton England, which shall be responsible for insurance and engraving. The holders shall be responsible for their care and maintenance.

PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

8. (a) **Between Premiership and Championship, the bottom 2 teams in the Premiership and the Championship will be relegated, and the top 2 teams in the Championship will be promoted.**
- (b) Division 1: Division 1 Play-Offs will be held to determine promotion from Division 1, North & South to the Championship as follows:
- (i) The best two play-off teams eligible under Regulation 2(a) shall be promoted to the Championship. If there is only one eligible team then the 9th placed Championship team will not be relegated. If there are no eligible teams then no Championship teams will be relegated.
 - (ii) The format of all play-offs shall be decided by Badminton England;

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PLAYING TIES

9. (a) Premiership. The division shall be completed in three weekends on dates and at venues determined by Badminton England.
- (b) Championship. The division shall be completed in three weekends on dates and at venues determined by Badminton England.
- (c) Regional Divisions. Each division shall be completed in three weekends on dates and at venues determined by Badminton England.
- (d) Badminton England will provide feather shuttlecocks for all ties unless notified by them to the contrary.
- (e) Badminton England shall have the power to decide any point upon which competing Counties are unable to agree, and for which these Regulations make no provision.

EXPENSES OF TIES

10. (a) The costs of venues, shuttlecocks and other incidental expenses shall be borne by Badminton England.
- (b) Accommodation and travelling expenses shall be borne by each team or its county.
- (c) Badminton England shall be empowered, at its discretion, to make grants towards travelling expenses, subject to the availability of finance.

- (d) Badminton England shall have the power to make, at its discretion, charges and or grants towards expenses incurred for any play-offs for promotion.

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

11. Providing players meet all the criteria outlined below they will be qualified to play;
- (a) Meet the criteria set out in Appendix A
 - (b) A member of Badminton England 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 Compete Membership.

CONSTITUTION OF TIES

12. (a) Each team shall be arranged in such a way as to provide for three men's singles players, two women's singles players, two men's doubles pairs, two women's doubles pairs and two mixed doubles pairs. 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) 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), no alteration shall be made thereafter except as provided in Regulation 13.
- (c) 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 Regulations 11, 12 and 13.
- (d) Each team may allow 1 male only to compete in all 3 events of the tie. All other players may only compete in a maximum of two events per tie.
- (e) Any county objecting to the composition or ranking of their opponent's team must appeal to the Referee before the commencement of the tie in which such a player is competing. If the dispute is not resolved the complainant should ensure that the objection is noted on the result submitted online to Badminton England and send a supporting letter to be received by Badminton England within four days of the tie.
- (f) 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. Badminton England reserves the right to apply sanctions.
- (g) 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.**
- (h) A county shall appoint a captain of its team for each tie and in default a team shall appoint its own captain.
- (i) A captain shall be entitled to include a substitute for a player nominated in accordance with Regulation 11 and 12:
- (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 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 14) 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.

- (j) 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. Special dispensation may be requested from the SCC Management Group due to unforeseen circumstances.
- (k) 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.
- (l) The order of play in each tie shall be firstly all singles matches, secondly all men's 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/Organiser if present and if not, the recommended order used.
- (m) 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.
- (n) 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.
- (o) A player is entitled to at least twenty minutes rest after every singles match, and at least ten minutes rest after any doubles match, before their next match.

NOMINATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

13. (a) Every county that has more than one team entered in the Championships shall send in writing to the Championships Secretary by the 26th October 2019, the full names of at and four women for each team except the lowest. The men and women nominated shall be entirely different for each team.

ALL PLAYERS IT IS INTENDED TO PLAY REGULARLY IN THAT TEAM SHALL BE NOMINATED, INCLUDING THOSE FOR THE LOWEST RANKED TEAM IN EACH COUNTY.

The eligibility of these nominated players shall previously have been ascertained and their assent obtained, and they shall not be eligible to play at any time during the season for a lower team or for any other county. Counties should make their nominations in the spirit of the competition.

A penalty may be imposed on counties considered to have breached this Regulation (see Appendix A for Eligibility Criteria). In the event of any county not having submitted such nominations before playing its first tie in any section the players who took part in that

county's first tie in each section shall be regarded as having been nominated for the team in question, unless subsequently de-nominated under Regulation 13(b).

- (b) When a player has played no more than one weekend for a team for which they have been nominated a county may apply, stating reasons, to the Championships Secretary, for de-nomination. Should such de-nomination be granted then the player may not play in the higher team during the rest of the season.
- (c) In addition, in a season, players shall not be eligible to play for lower teams if they shall have played for a higher team on more than one weekend as defined in Regulation 3.
- (d) A player may represent different teams 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.
- (e) 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 Badminton England shall be final.
- (f) 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 Badminton England shall be final.
- (g) 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 Wildcard 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.

REFEREES & ORGANISERS

- 14. (a) Badminton England will appoint a registered referee to Premier and Division 1 weekends. Badminton England shall endeavour to appoint a referee or organiser to all other divisions.
- (b) Duties
Liaise with Badminton England, venue and team managers to coordinate the smooth running of the weekend:
 - (i) Receive and return new shuttles
 - (ii) Distribution of shuttles and information to teams (on the day).
 - (iii) Liaise with venue to ensure the playing area is suitably setup (on the day)
 - (iv) Maintain a league table (supplied by Badminton England)
 - (v) Welcome teams on arrival, ensure they find their allocated courts and chase any late arrivals. Ensure team managers start and play ties in a timely manner.
- (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 Regulations 12(a) and in the case of substitutions under Regulation 12(i). If not, the dispute is recorded and referred after the weekend to the SCC Management Group.
 - (iii) Order of play (Regulation 12)
- (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 17 & Appendix B).
 - (e) In Premier Division where Umpires are present fulfil the duties under Regulation 19 concerning Umpires.

DECISIONS OF TIES AND SECTIONS

15. (a) One point will be awarded for each match won.
- (b) The winner of a Division or section shall be the team which wins the greatest number of points.
- (c) The winner of a tie shall be decided by the number of matches won in such a tie.
- (d) Should two or more teams be equal on points the following shall decide the standings;
- (i) The team who wins the most ties.
 - (ii) If two teams have won the same number of ties the winner of the tie between them.
 - (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 Badminton England will decide.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

16. (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.
- (b) The result of every 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.

CLOTHING

17. **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 Badminton England, 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 17(a) is not mandatory for regional divisions it is recommended that it is adhered to wherever possible.

UMPIRES

18. (a) Badminton England, 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.

COMPLAINTS

19. 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 Badminton England's disciplinary procedures.

PENALTIES

20. (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) Badminton England 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 failing to play all the scheduled matches in a tie as a result of having an incomplete team, unless caused by illness or injury arising during the tie, will be fined £50 for each player missing in each tie;
- (d) Any county which shall fail to complete records required by these Regulations or who shall play a player who is ineligible under Regulations 11 - 13 inclusive will be fined £50.00 for each match in which such a player competes, in addition to the deduction of points won.
- (e) If any player nominated under Regulation 12(a) fails to play for that team during the season and if this reduces the number of nominated men or women to less than four for men and four for women, a fine of £50 will be imposed.
- (f) A county failing to comply with Regulation 16 shall be fined £25 on each occasion in addition to any other action, which may be taken under this Regulation.
- (g) A county failing to comply with Regulation 17 shall be given a one-off £100 fine following the first weekends play.
- (h) Badminton England 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 Badminton England considers it to be in the best interests of the competition.
- (i) Badminton England 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.
- (j) 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 Badminton England imposing the penalty and must be accompanied by a cheque payable to Badminton England Ltd for the full amount of any fine.
- (k) The Penalty System as detailed in the Badminton England Regulations for Tournaments shall apply, with specific reference to (although not exclusive to) Cards for Misconduct.

GENERAL

- 21. Badminton England 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 Badminton England County Championship and Challenge competitions. All players must be in good standing with Badminton England and be either; a playing member of Badminton England or registered with Badminton England if they are member another national association affiliated to the Badminton World Federation.

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

- a) Were born in that county
- b) Currently reside in that county
- c) Currently in full time education in that county
- d) Last represented county
- e) Previously represented county
- f) 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 Badminton England 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.

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

Badminton England reserves the right to grant special dispensations. All resident and England born players shall be granted the right to represent a county should the eligibility criteria not otherwise provide an active county team suitable for that player.

Definitions

a) Were born in that county

A player will be required to supply a copy of their birth certificate. County of birth will be determined using the County Boundaries.

b) 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 (eg. 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 (eg. solicitor's letter confirming recent house purchase or land registry confirmation).
- Household bill eg. 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 eg 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.

c) 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 (eg 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.

d) Last represented that county

Badminton England 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.

e) Previously represented county

Badminton England records of recognised County Tournaments will be used.

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.

f) 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.

Appeals Process

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 Badminton England 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.

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:

- i) The case should be made in writing to Badminton England Competition & Events Team.
- ii) Badminton England shall respond within 7 days to acknowledge receipt.
- iii) Badminton England 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 then Badminton England 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.
- vi) The County may submit a request for special dispensation for that player.

Badminton England reserves the right to grant special dispensations. Requests for special dispensation must be made on the official form on the website. Badminton England will acknowledge receipt of the request within 7 days. Special dispensation must be signed off by Badminton England. There is no fixed time for an outcome decision. During this period the player will not be allowed to represent the County.

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 Senior County Championships, 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.

The Badminton England Senior County Championships 2019/20

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The Badminton England Senior County Championships Past Winners

1930-31 MIDDLESEX	1978-79 LANCASHIRE
1931-32 MIDDLESEX	1979-80 LANCASHIRE
1932-33 MIDDLESEX	1980-81 LANCASHIRE
1933-34 CHESHIRE	1981-82 SURREY
1934-35 MIDDLESEX	1982-83 SURREY
1935-36 MIDDLESEX	1983-84 SURREY
1936-37 MIDDLESEX	1984-85 SURREY
1937-38 LANCASHIRE	1985-86 LANCASHIRE
1938-39 MIDDLESEX	1986-87 ESSEX
1939 to 1946 No Competition	1987-88 SURREY
1946-47 CHESHIRE & MIDDLESEX (un-played)	1988-89 SURREY
1947-48 YORKSHIRE	1989-90 SURREY
1948-49 CHESHIRE	1990-91 SURREY
1949-50 CHESHIRE	1991-92 HERTFORDSHIRE
1950-51 MIDDLESEX	1992-93 SURREY
1951-52 CHESHIRE	1993-94 SURREY
1952-53 MIDDLESEX	1994-95 ESSEX
1953-54 KENT	1995-96 ESSEX
1954-55 SURREY	1996-97 ESSEX
1955-56 SURREY	1997-98 ESSEX
1956-57 SURREY	1998-99 LANCASHIRE
1957-58 SURREY	1999-00 YORKSHIRE
1958-59 SURREY	2000-01 YORKSHIRE
1959-60 KENT	2001-02 YORKSHIRE
1960-61 SURREY	2002-03 YORKSHIRE
1961-62 SURREY	2003-04 YORKSHIRE
1962-63 SURREY	2004-05 WARWICKSHIRE
1963-64 ESSEX	2005-06 YORKSHIRE
1964-65 SURREY	2006-07 YORKSHIRE
1965-66 SURREY	2007-08 YORKSHIRE
1966-67 SURREY	2008-09 YORKSHIRE
1967-68 SURREY	2009-10 YORKSHIRE
1968-69 SURREY	2010-11 YORKSHIRE
1969-70 SURREY	2011-12 SURREY
1970-71 SURREY	2012-13 YORKSHIRE
1971-72 SURREY	2013-14 SURREY
1972-73 SURREY	2014-15 YORKSHIRE
1973-74 SURREY	2015-16 YORKSHIRE
1974-75 SURREY	2016-17 YORKSHIRE
1975-76 LANCASHIRE	2017-18 MIDDLESEX
1976-77 ESSEX	2018-19 MIDDLESEX
1977-78 ESSEX	2019-20



MASTERS POLICY GROUP

The 2019/20 Masters Policy Group consists of the following members:

Roy Carder – Chairperson + Challenge Co-ordinator

07734 008006

Margaret Houlton – Championships Secretary

01962 869443

Sue Warnock – Masters' Development Officer

07584 568962

Liz Austin

Christine Crossley

Peter Emptage

Suzanne Brewer

Mark King

Geoff Rofe (Vice President)

Jon Hancock (BE Competitions Manager)

01908 268411





MASTERS COMPETITION KEY EVENTS

Masters Nationals – 29/30th Nov & 1st Dec 2019

County Challenge – 11/12th January 2020

All England Masters - 3/4/5th April 2020

County Championships Playoffs - 21/22nd March 2020

County Championships Finals – 25th/26th April 2020

Masters Annual Coordinators meeting - 17th May 2020



MASTERS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS DIVISIONS

North	Midlands: East	Midlands: West	S&E: South	S&E: East	South West
Cheshire	Leicestershire	Oxfordshire	Hampshire	Bedfordshire	Avon
Lancashire	Lincolnshire	Shropshire	Kent	Buckinghamshire	Devon
Northumberland	Norfolk	Staffordshire	Middlesex	Cambridge	Dorset
Yorkshire	Nottinghamshire	Warwickshire	Surrey	Essex	Somerset
		Worcestershire	Sussex	Suffolk	Wiltshire

Over 45

North	Midlands	S&E: South	S&E: East	South West
Cheshire	Derbyshire	Hampshire	Cambridgeshire	Devon
Cumbria	Oxfordshire	Kent	Essex	Gloucestershire
Lancashire	Nottinghamshire	Surrey	Hertfordshire	Isle of Wight
West of Scotland	Shropshire	Sussex	Middlesex	Wiltshire 1
Yorkshire	Worcestershire			Wiltshire 2

Over 50

North	Midlands: East	Midlands: West	S&E: South	S&E: East	South West
Cheshire	Buckinghamshire	Oxfordshire	Hampshire	Essex	Avon
Lancashire	Leicestershire	Shropshire	Kent	Hertfordshire 1	Cornwall
Nottinghamshire	Lincolnshire	Warwickshire 2	Middlesex	Hertfordshire 2	Devon
Yorkshire	Warwickshire 1	Worcestershire	Surrey	Norfolk	Wiltshire
			Sussex	Suffolk	

Over 55

North	Midlands	S&E: South	S&E: East	South West
Cheshire	Leicestershire	Kent	Buckinghamshire	Avon
Lancashire	Northamptonshire	Middlesex	Cambridgeshire	Devon
Nottinghamshire 1	Nottinghamshire 2	Surrey	Essex	Hampshire
Yorkshire	, Shropshire	Sussex	Hertfordshire	Somerset
			Suffolk	

Over 60

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

Over 65

North	Midlands: East	Midlands: West	South East	South West
Cheshire 2 Lancashire 1 Lancashire 2 Northumberland Yorkshire	Buckinghamshire Hertfordshire Leicestershire Northamptonshire	Cheshire 1 Staffordshire Warwickshire Worcestershire	Berkshire Essex 1 Essex 2 Hampshire Kent Surrey Sussex	Avon 1 Avon 2 Cornwall Devon Dorset 1 Dorset 2 Isle of Wight Somerset Wiltshire

Over 70

South West	South East	South Central	North
Avon Devon 1 Devon 2 Dorset Hampshire Isle of Wight Wiltshire	Kent Middlesex Surrey Sussex	Hertfordshire Northamptonshire Oxfordshire	Lancashire Yorkshire

OVER 75

Dorset Hampshire Kent Wiltshire

MASTERS COUNTY CHALLENGE 2019/20 DIVISIONS					
040 Premier	045 Premier	050 Premier	055 Premier	060 Premier	065 Premier
Bedfordshire	Essex	Essex	Cheshire	Cheshire	Avon
Devon	Gloucestershire	Lancashire	Durham	Essex	Cheshire 1
Essex	Hampshire	Nottinghamshire	Essex	Hampshire	Kent
Kent	Hertfordshire	Surrey	Hampshire	Kent	Lancashire 1
Lancashire	Middlesex	W of Scotland	Hertfordshire	Lancashire	Surrey
Oxfordshire	Surrey	Worcestershire	Lancashire	Surrey	Wiltshire
Yorkshire	Yorkshire	Yorkshire	Yorkshire	Yorkshire	Yorkshire
040 Div 1A	045 Div 1A	050 Div 1A	055 Div 1A	060 Div 1A	065 Div 1A
Cheshire	Cheshire	Cambridgeshire	Buckinghamshire	Gloucestershire	Cheshire 2
Glasgow North	Derbyshire	Cheshire	Cambridgeshire	Nottinghamshire	Glasgow N
Lincolnshire	Lancashire	Lincolnshire	Leicestershire	Shropshire	Lancashire 2
Norfolk	Nottinghamshire	Norfolk	Northamptonshire	Suffolk	Leicestershire
Northumberland	Shropshire	Warwickshire	Nottinghamshire	Worcester	Northumberland
Nottinghamshire	Warwickshire		Shropshire		Staffordshire
Staffordshire	Worcester	PLAY TWICE	Suffolk	PLAY TWICE	Worcester
040 Div 1B	045 Div 1B	050 Div 1B	055 Div 1B	060 Div 1B	065 Div 1B
Buckinghamshire	Devon	Cornwall	Avon	Avon	Berkshire
Cambridgeshire	I.O.W	Devon	Devon	Devon	Devon
Dorset	Kent	Hampshire	Kent	Dorset	Dorset 1
Middlesex	Oxford	Kent	Middlesex	Hertfordshire	Essex 1
Somerset	Surrey2	Middlesex	Somerset	Middlesex	Hampshire
Surrey	Sussex	Sussex	Surrey 1 & 2	Sussex	Hertfordshire
Worcester	Wiltshire	Wiltshire	Sussex	Wiltshire	Sussex
040 Div 2B		050 Div 2B	070 Premier	070 Div 1	065 Div 2B
Avon		Avon	Avon	Cheshire	Cornwall
Berkshire		Buckinghamshire	Hampshire	Devon	Dorset 2
Hampshire		Hertfordshire	Kent	Dorset	Essex 2
Suffolk		Oxford	Lancashire	Hertfordshire	I.O.W
Sussex 1			Surrey	I.O.W	Somerset
Sussex 2			Sussex	Middlesex	
Wiltshire		PLAY TWICE	Yorkshire	Wiltshire	PLAY TWICE

MASTERS COUNTY CHALLENGE VENUES 2019/20					
Eastleigh					
040 Div 1B	040 Div 2B	045 Div 1B	050 Div 1B	065 Div 2B	070 Div 1
Buckinghamshire	Avon	Devon	Cornwall	Cornwall	Cheshire
Cambridgeshire	Berkshire	I.O.W	Devon	Dorset 2	Devon
Dorset	Hampshire	Kent	Hampshire	Essex 2	Dorset
Middlesex	Suffolk	Oxford	Kent	I.O.W	Hertfordshire
Somerset	Sussex 1	Surrey 2	Middlesex	Somerset	I.O.W
Surrey	Sussex 2	Sussex	Sussex		Middlesex
Worcestershire	Wiltshire	Wiltshire	Wiltshire	PLAY TWICE	Wiltshire
Bournemouth					
050Div 2B	055 Div 1B	060 Div 1B	065 Div 1B		
Avon	Avon	Avon	Berkshire		
Buckinghamshire	Devon	Devon	Devon		
Hertfordshire	Kent	Dorset	Dorset 1		
Oxford	Middlesex	Hertfordshire	Essex 1		
	Somerset	Middlesex	Hampshire		
	Surrey 1	Sussex	Hertfordshire		
PLAY TWICE	Surrey 2	Wiltshire	Sussex		
	Sussex				
Milton Keynes					
045 Premier	050 Premier	060 Premier			
Essex	Essex	Cheshire			
Gloucestershire	Lancashire	Essex			
Hampshire	Nottinghamshire	Hampshire			
Hertfordshire	Surrey	Kent			
Middlesex	W of Scotland	Lancashire			
Surrey	Worcestershire	Surrey			
Yorkshire	Yorkshire	Yorkshire			

Wolverhampton				
040 Premier	040 Div 1A	055 Premier	065 Premier	070 Premier
Bedfordshire	Cheshire	Cheshire	Avon	Avon
Devon	Glasgow North	Durham	Cheshire 1	Hampshire
Essex	Lincolnshire	Essex	Kent	Kent
Kent	Norfolk	Hampshire	Lancashire 1	Lancashire
Lancashire	Northumberland	Hertfordshire	Surrey	Surrey
Oxford	Nottinghamshire	Lancashire	Wiltshire	Sussex
Yorkshire	Staffordshire	Yorkshire	Yorkshire	Yorkshire
Worcester				
045 Div 1A	050 Div 1A	055 Div 1A	060 Div 1A	065 Div 1A
Cheshire	Cambridgeshire	Buckinghamshire	Gloucestershire	Cheshire 2
Derbyshire	Cheshire	Cambridgeshire	Nottinghamshire	Glasgow N
Lancashire	Lincolnshire	Leicestershire	Shropshire	Lancashire 2
Nottinghamshire	Norfolk	Northamptonshire	Suffolk	Leicestershire
Shropshire	Warwickshire	Nottinghamshire	Worcester	Northumberland
Warwickshire		Shropshire		Staffordshire
Worcester	PLAY TWICE	Suffolk	PLAY TWICE	Worcester



Regulations for the Badminton England Masters County Championships 2019/20

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 Badminton England or Championship Secretary by the closing date which is usually in May. 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, 60 and 75 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 knock out 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 3rd and 4th 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 31st December and all ties by 31st March each year, except where a play off 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 or Championships Secretary of each opposing county and Badminton England by 31st August preceding the season of competition. This should be achieved by using the Confirmation of Home Fixtures Form supplied by Badminton England.

- 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 31st 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 by mutual agreement 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 (page16 - Appendix A).
 - (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 Masters Championship. To assist counties every match can be played using one “wild card” 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.**
- b) Players must be over the age of 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and 75 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 31st October, whichever is earlier.** Details of subsequent players added to a squad must also be advised as soon as possible to Badminton England, and 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 (ie. the semi-final and final is only considered as a single occasion). However a player may not play as a reserve in other teams if there are sufficient available nominated players in the team in question.

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 provided they qualify age wise, are not exceeding three reserve appearances and that it does not cause undue delay. An Over 75 player can play as many times they like in any lower age group.

- 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 squad 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.
Note: there shall be NO intervals when a side reaches 11 points in a game, NOR between the first and second or third games.
- d) 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.

- e) 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 1st 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.
- f) 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 do 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 2019/20

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 championships shall be run for Over 40s, Over 45s, Over 50s, Over 55s, Over 60s, Over 65s, Over 70s and Over 75's (subject to sufficient entries being received).
- 4 Entry forms will be circulated to counties in April/May and these must be returned to Badminton England with the appropriate fee per team by 31st May. Counties may enter more than one team in each age group.
- 5 The Challenge will be held over the second Saturday/Sunday in January annually at various venues, to be arranged by Badminton England. 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 regulation (page 16, Appendix A).

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 the 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 match can be played using one "wild card" 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.

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. Over 75 squads should consist of 2 men and 2 ladies with a maximum of 3 men and 3 ladies. 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 1st 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 1st Mixed Doubles and a 2nd 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 and 4 for Over 75;s) and their pairings to play that tie with the mixed doubles pairs, where appropriate, ranked in order of strength.

- 15 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.

- 16 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

- 17 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, games won minus games lost is greatest.
 - (f) if two teams are still equal the winner of the tie between them as in (b).
 - (g) if three or more teams are still equal the team from among them for whom, overall, points won minus points lost is greatest.
 - (h) if two teams are still equal the winner of the tie between them as in (b).

TROPHIES

- 18 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

- 19 Badminton England's current Tournament Regulations shall apply.
- 20 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 2019/20

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The Badminton England Masters County Championships Past Winners

	Over 40	Over 45	Over 50	Over 55	Over 60	Over 65	Over 70
2000	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE		
2001	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	KENT	CUMBRIA		
2002	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	KENT	CUMBRIA		
2003	DERBYSHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	KENT	YORKSHIRE		
2004	YORKSHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	KENT	YORKSHIRE	CHESHIRE	
2005	LANCASHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	HAMPSHIRE	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	
2006	YORKSHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	STAFFORDSHIRE	KENT	CUMBRIA	
2007	ESSEX	YORKSHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	
2008	LANCASHIRE	YORKSHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	HAMPSHIRE	YORKSHIRE	
2009	GLOUCESTERSHIRE	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	CUMBRIA	
2010	CHESHIRE	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	KENT	
2011	CHESHIRE	LANCASHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	YORKSHIRE	HAMPSHIRE	
2012	ESSEX	LANCASHIRE	YORKSHIRE	SURREY	SURREY	KENT	DORSET
2013	GLOUCESTERSHIRE	ESSEX	YORKSHIRE	SURREY	SURREY	HAMPSHIRE	DEVON
2014	ESSEX	ESSEX	YORKSHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	KENT	DEVON
2015	YORKSHIRE	ESSEX	YORKSHIRE	YORKSHIRE	LANCASHIRE	KENT	WILTSHIRE
2016	ESSEX	ESSEX	ESSEX	SURREY	ESSEX	YORKSHIRE	KENT
2017	YORKSHIRE	ESSEX	YORKSHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	KENT
2018	YORKSHIRE	GLOUCESTERSHIRE	YORKSHIRE	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	KENT
2019	YORKSHIRE	GLOUCESTERSHIRE	ESSEX	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	KENT

The Badminton England Masters County Challenge Past Winners

	Over 40	Over 45	Over 50	Over 55	Over 60	Over 65	Over 70
1986	LANCASHIRE	YORKSHIRE					
1987	LANCASHIRE	YORKSHIRE	ESSEX				
1988	LANCASHIRE	MIDDLESEX	LANCASHIRE				
1989	DURHAM	YORKSHIRE	SURREY				
1990	KENT	KENT	ESSEX				
1991	LANCASHIRE	KENT	SURREY				
1992	LANCASHIRE	KENT	ESSEX				
1993	ESSEX	KENT	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	ESSEX			
1994	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	YORKSHIRE	SURREY			
1995	ESSEX	ESSEX	YORKSHIRE	ESSEX			
1996	ESSEX	LANCASHIRE	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	YORKSHIRE	MIDDLESEX		
1997	ESSEX	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	CUMBRIA	HAMPSHIRE		
1998	DURHAM	LANCASHIRE	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	LANCASHIRE	ESSEX		
1999	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	YORKSHIRE	CUMBRIA		
2000	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	SURREY	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE		
2001	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	ESSEX	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE		
2002	DEVON	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	KENT	CUMBRIA		
2003	YORKSHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	KENT	YORKSHIRE	CUMBRIA	
2004	YORKSHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	YORKSHIRE	CUMBRIA	
2005	HERTFORDSHIRE	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	
2006	YORKSHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	ESSEX	KENT	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	
2007	ESSEX	LANCASHIRE	SURREY	ESSEX	KENT	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	
2008	ESSEX	LANCASHIRE	SURREY	ESSEX	KENT	YORKSHIRE	
2009	HERTFORDSHIRE	CHESHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	YORKSHIRE	
2010	HERTFORDSHIRE	ESSEX	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	KENT	KENT	CUMBRIA
2011	GLOUCESTERSHIRE	DERBYSHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	HAMPSHIRE	HAMPSHIRE	HAMPSHIRE
2012	GLOUCESTERSHIRE	HERTFORDSHIRE	YORKSHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	KENT	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
2013	CHESHIRE	HERTFORDSHIRE	LANCASHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	KENT	DORSET
2014	LEICESTERSHIRE	HERTFORDSHIRE	YORKSHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	KENT	DEVON
2015	ESSEX	W OF SCOTLAND	SURREY	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	KENT	HAMPSHIRE
2016	ESSEX	HERTFORDSHIRE	ESSEX	SURREY	SURREY	YORKSHIRE	KENT
2017	ESSEX	ESSEX	YORKSHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	YORKSHIRE	KENT
2018	YORKSHIRE	HERTFORDSHIRE	LANCASHIRE	LANCASHIRE	SURREY	LANCASHIRE	KENT
2019	ESSEX	HAMPSHIRE	YORKSHIRE	YORKSHIRE	LANCASHIRE	SURREY	KENT