

Meath Badminton Association Rules

Revised 01/09/2025

ADMINISTRATION

1. Name

The name of the Association shall be Meath Badminton Association (hereafter referred to as MBA or the Association)

2. Objective

The objective of the MBA shall be the promotion of badminton at all levels in Co. Meath.

3. Executive Committee

An Executive Committee (hereafter referred to as the Committee) will be elected to handle the affairs of the Association

4.

The Executive Committee shall consist of Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Inter-County Secretary, Juvenile Secretary, Match Secretary and seven Ordinary Members. The Chairperson shall have a casting vote in addition to his/her vote as Committee Member. The quorum to hold a meeting of the Executive is 7 members.

5.

The Committee shall be elected by delegates at the AGM. All those affiliated to the MBA may attend the AGM. However each affiliated club may only have 2 voting delegates who are nominated by the club and affiliated to the MBA. In addition to delegates the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association will also have a vote. People may only be elected to the Committee if affiliated to the MBA.

6. Sub-Committees

The Committee may appoint Sub-Committees or individuals to handle specific duties.

7. Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Association must be held within four months of the completion of the Meath League.

8. Disputes / Breaches of Rules

The Committee shall have full power to decide on any matter not covered by or in breach of these rules, and also to investigate any irregularity or breach of these rules, which may come to their notice, whether or not a formal protest in the matter has been made.

Clubs and Members guilty of numerous or serious offences may be suspended and/or fined a maximum of €60 at the discretion of the Committee. During suspension the Club or players shall not take part in any of the Association's competitions. In case of disputes and appeals the Committee's decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

9. To Amend Rules

Proposals to amend these rules may be made by any affiliated club or by the outgoing Committee. These proposals must be submitted in writing to the Secretary prior to the AGM.

10.

A simple majority shall be necessary in all voting.

FINANCE

11.

All fees shall be set by the Committee.

12.

All cheques must be signed by any two of Treasurer, Chairperson or Secretary.

13.

All money received by the Association from clubs shall be acknowledged by receipt.

14.

Clubs who fail to pay the appropriate fees or fines within the time specified may be eliminated from the Association competitions.

AFFILIATION and REGISTRATION

15. Clubs

In order to compete in MBA competitions, a club must register with MBA and also affiliate directly to Badminton Ireland (BI) by paying the appropriate fee.

16. Players

All players wishing to take part in MBA competitions including Meath Inter-County teams must be

- (i) affiliated to BI,
- (ii) affiliated to MBA by their club and
- (iii) registered with MBA by their club.

A player may affiliate directly to the MBA if his/her club is not registered with the MBA, in order to play Inter-County.

17. Social Members

Social Members i.e. Club members not wishing to compete in any MBA competition must be affiliated to BI.

18. Insurance

Affiliation fees to BI include public liability and personal accident cover. These fees are payable directly by the clubs to BI **or the individual player may affiliate directly themselves. It is each club's responsibility to ensure all their players are affiliated to BI for the current season.**

AFFILIATION to MBA involves supplying player's full name as required on form supplied by Treasurer and paying appropriate fee as set by the Committee.

REGISTRATION with MBA requires the submission of League or Cup entry form with the following information for each player

- (i) Name
- (ii) Current / most recent points value, **or state if a Beginner**
- (iii) If not on team in previous season, then state last year in which competed, **and in what league/competition**
- (iv) Name of previous club, if any
- (v) **B.I. Affiliation number**

Players may also be registered in writing giving the above details up to Feb 1st.

Players may not play on a team until their registration and points value has been approved by the Committee.

19.

Clubs may only play a player in the League or Cup who has been registered with that club and affiliated before 1st February. (Any exception to this must be passed at a full meeting of the Committee including that provided for under Rule 50).

LEAGUE AND CUP RULES

20. Division of League/Cup

The league will be divided into Grades - Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and, where there are sufficient entries, subdivided into sections. Each team in a section will play each other on a home and away basis.

The Cup is an open draw knock-out competition. However, in the event that there are only 3 teams entered the Committee may run the competition as a round robin rather than cancel the event. In this case there will be no final and prizes are awarded just to the winners.

There will be separate competitions in the League and Cup for Mixed, Men's and Ladies' teams.

A competition will only be run for each grade in the League and Cup provided there are sufficient entries - this decision will be at the discretion of the Committee.

21. Finals and Play-offs

A final shall be played in all Grades. In the League where there is only one section the top two teams will play a final. Where there are 2 or more sections the winners and runners-up in each section will play on a knock-out basis to a final. The winners of one section will play the runners up in the other.

22.

If the top two teams in a section tie on points then the winner is decided on the result of their head to head matches – first by games, then sets and then points. If 2nd and 3rd team tie in a section then the winner is decided by a play-off at a neutral venue.

In the event of more than two teams tying on points in a section the Committee will arrange a play-off at a neutral venue. The play-off will be decided by playing 1st and 2nd Men's/Lds in a round robin format. In the Mixed competition it will be decided by playing 1st and 2nd Mxd.

23.

The Committee shall arrange venues and dates for all League play-offs, semi-finals, finals and Cup finals. No cancellation of semi-finals or finals will be permitted except in accordance with Rule No. 38 and only with permission of the MBA committee.

24.

Mixed League and Cup: From play-off stage onwards in the League, and in Cup competitions where teams finish level on games, sets and points, the event will be decided by 1st mixed doubles playing one set.

Men's/Ladies League and Cup : From play-off stage onwards in the League, and in Cup competitions, where teams finish level on games, sets and points, the event will be decided by 1st Men's/Ladies doubles playing one set.

25. Nomination of Teams

On or before the last date fixed for entries for the League and Cup Competitions, each club shall submit the full names of the players nominated to play for each team (maiden name also to be given if married since last registration) also substitutes, indicating the points value for each player for the current season.

No player shall play in a League or Cup grade below which they have already won a League or Cup competition in the previous season unless they are from the lower grade. This does not apply for subsequent years.

26. False Information

Any club which gives false, misleading or incomplete information on team nominations or individual players shall be liable, at the discretion of the Committee, to have the team/individual concerned disqualified from the League or Cup.

27. Allocation of Teams to Grades

The allocation of teams to League/Cup Grades and the promotion or relegation of any team in the League/Cup is entirely at the discretion of the Committee.

28. Grading

The Committee shall maintain a “point value” system reflecting the standard of play of each individual player. This value will be based on previous year’s performance while new players will be graded by their clubs as accurately as possible. Players may be at the Top, Middle or Bottom of a Grade. The top of each Grade will be separated by 3 points.

29.

Teams will then be created with the sum of the players “point value” not exceeding the maximum allowed for that Grade. The table below shows the points relating to individuals and teams that will be used by all counties in Leinster for Inter County, Inter League and Individually Graded Competitions and by MBA for all MBA competitions.

	Max Individual	4 Person Team	8 Person Team
Grade 1	24	96	192
Grade 2	21	84	168
Grade 3	18	72	144
Grade 4	15	60	120
Grade 5	12	48	96
Grade 6	9	36	72
Grade 7	6	24	48
Grade 8	3	12	24

30.

Players from a higher Grade may play in a League/Cup Competition in a lower Grade, to make up a team, provided the team “point value” total is not exceeded. Any player may only play “down” in the Grade directly below theirs. (e.g. A player from, say, Grade 3 may play on a Grade 4 team, not on a Grade 5 team, yet still remains a Grade 3 Player).

Only players at the lowest point value of their grade will be allowed to play down. Example: Grade 3 (16,17,18) only the lowest point i.e. 16 points player can play down on a Grade 4 team.

31. Juvenile Players

A. Juveniles progressing from Juvenile League to Adult League must play at or above Grade 6 Level. They cannot play in a lower grade unless permission is sought from the MBA Committee. This does not affect a juvenile that has not played badminton before.

B. A juvenile under 16 years of age on 1st September at start of current season is not allowed to play Adult League or in the Cup Competition. There are Juvenile Leagues to cater for these players.

Exceptional circumstances may be appealed to the MBA Committee but permission must be given before play.

32. Composition of Teams

A team shall consist of 4 players.

Mixed League: Matches will consist of one Men's Doubles, one Ladies Doubles and two Mixed Doubles games. Each player must play Men's/Ladies and one Mixed Doubles game. Order of play shall be Men's Doubles followed by Ladies Doubles followed by 1st and then 2nd Mixed Doubles. The point value of the 1st Mixed Doubles pairing must be higher than or **equal to** that of 2nd pairing.

Men's/Ladies League: Each match shall consist of four games. Each player must play two games – changing partners for the third and fourth games. Pairings must play in order of merit. The point value of the third pairing may **be equal to but** not be higher than the first pairing. (The third pairing may be higher than the second).

Pairings refers to the total points of the 2 partners when added together. The highest pointed individual players on a team do NOT have to play together.

33. Order of Team- League

Players on the same team may interchange with one another from game to game (i.e. no necessity to play with the same player from the second match) throughout the life of the league season. However, pairings must still play in order of merit.

If a partnership **breaks the order of merit rule** then the team will forfeit the game in which the infringement took place and any other game affected by this breach. e.g. Men's league team - if 3rd partnership is lower points than 4th, then any points won by offending team will be conceded to opposition in both games. If 1st Men's is not in order of merit, then potentially up to 4 points could be conceded.

34. Subbing

Players may sub onto a team provided the point value for that grade is not exceeded. Where a club has two teams in the same grade, only one player can sub across on any one night. If a player subs more than twice on any given team, then that player is deemed to be the legal sub for that team. If a player listed on a team at the start of the season has not played on the team, then the player replacing him/her is automatically on the team.

In League – from play-offs through to finals if a team needs a sub, the sub must be of equal point value or lower than the player they are replacing unless the sub has already played for that team during the League rounds.

In Cup Competition – in finals if a team needs a sub, the sub must be of equal point value or lower than the player they are replacing unless the sub has already played for that team in an earlier round.

35. Previous Season's Winners

The members of a winning League/Cup team (except in Grade1/Grade2) may not play together in the same grade, in the same competition, in the following season in the (unlikely) event that their points value allow it. (Note League and Cup are separate competitions).

If a team needs a sub at any point, then this sub cannot result in the same 4 players of a winning team the previous season playing together again in the grade they won.

36. League Fixtures

Fixtures shall be arranged at a meeting of club match secretaries called for that purpose. Match Secretaries should make their club members aware of their opposing team's venue. Each club must submit a list of its fixtures for the season to the County Secretary within **14 days** of the fixtures meeting. Failure to comply will mean a fine of **€50**.

Any club which does not attend the scheduled fixtures meeting must contact their opposing clubs within 5 days and make match fixtures, which must then be submitted to the County Secretary as above. The club will be fined **€50** if it does not comply.

A team that withdraws from a competition shall not be allowed re-enter the competition at a later stage during the season.

37.

At least half of a Mixed team's matches must be played by December 31st and the remainder by February 28th. The Men's and Ladies league matches must be completed by 31st March. **The Secretary will only accept scores from the matches played by the closing date to arrange Play-offs and Finals.** Any matches played after the closing date may not be accepted.

If a club has two teams in the same section their 1st fixture must be against each other and their 1st fixture after Christmas must be the same (against each other).

38. Cancellations

Cancellations are only allowed in the following circumstances:

- (i) severe weather conditions
- (ii) bereavement in a player's immediate family
- (iii) unavailability of hall
- (iv) a match is brought forward to an earlier date than original fixture

The MBA Secretary must be notified immediately. Failure to notify will result in a fine of €10 on the club that cancelled the fixture.

39.

Any club having difficulty in arranging a match, in the match itself or anything arising from the match should contact the MBA Secretary by phone only (not email or text) who will take the necessary action.

40. Texting

Texting is not an acceptable means of communication for cancelling matches should this be necessary. However, it can be used to confirm match arrangements, especially regarding Cup fixtures, so long as a confirmation reply is received.

41. Time of match

Matches must commence at a time agreed by both Match Secretaries or Team Captains. In the event of any team being unable to have a full side present at the agreed time the two Secretaries/Captains involved should arrange to have at least one game present e.g. Ladies doubles in a Mixed match. Otherwise order of play must be as per result sheet. The home team shall be presumed to be at fault unless otherwise stated.

42.

No team is expected to wait 15 minutes beyond the agreed time for a match to commence. No team is expected to wait more than fifteen minutes for subsequent games. Teams who do not play within this time frame will forfeit each match.

All matches must be completed on one night. In the event that all games in a match are not completed by close of hall the remaining points will be awarded against the offending team. Where a match starts on time the visiting team will be awarded the remaining points.

43. Fulfilling Fixtures

A team may not concede a walk-over in the League (i.e. fail to play a fixture and concede full points to the opposition). If a club cannot field a full team then that team must fulfil the fixture with 2/3 players. The rule of order of merit must still apply to the players present.

A fine of €40 will be imposed on the club which fails to fulfil the fixture.

When a team notifies another team that they will only have 3 players for a match, then their opponents do not need to have 4 players present and can still claim the two un-played matches. **Match Secretary must be notified of this.**

By the final date for completion of League matches, if a team has failed to fulfil a fixture in accordance with the above rules and this impacts on the result of a section re winner/runner-up, then all the matches played by the offending team shall be declared null and void.

44.

One point shall be awarded for each game played in a match.

45. Injured Players

Where a player is unable to complete his/her game due to injury or sudden illness the game(s) shall be conceded. From play-offs onwards a substitute may be used for the injured/ill player's subsequent game. For a substitution to be in order, a player must firstly forfeit a game, e.g. Men's or Ladies doubles. The player will retain all points won in the game forfeited. The sub takes the place of the injured player on the score sheet and the order of merit is not taken into account in this situation.

46. Results Sheet

Prior to the commencement of a match the names of both teams must be entered on the result sheet. The starting time of the match must also be entered.

47. Completing Result Sheets

The captain of the winning team (or in the case of a draw, the captain of the home team) shall, within **3 days**, send the fully completed result sheet to the Match Secretary. To be "fully completed" a result sheet must include the following: Grade, Section, Venue, Date, Time game commenced, Team name and players name in full including word "sub" if relevant, Team captains' signatures and scores in matches.

All scoresheets should be signed by a nominated team captain playing on the team on the night. Scoresheets should only be signed after all games are finished and the scoresheet is completed.

Failure to comply shall mean a fine of €10 on team submitting the result sheet. Clubs submitting false, misleading or incomplete information may be liable to a maximum fine of €60 and may also be disqualified.

48. Shuttles

All grades must play with best quality feather shuttles available. In the League the Home team supplies the shuttles. From play-offs onwards teams should share the provision of shuttles equally.

49. Attire

Proper badminton attire including proper indoor court shoes must be worn during play. Casual or holiday clothing or clothing with slogans or cartoons printed thereon is not acceptable.

50. Players from other clubs

Players may play with another club to facilitate the expansion of the Ladies', Men's and Mixed Leagues and Cup. This rule is for clubs who clearly do not have sufficient players to form a team on its own.

A player whose club has only Ladies or Men's teams at his/her grade may apply to the Committee to be included in a Mixed team with another club. Also a player whose club has only Mixed teams at his/her grade may apply to the committee to be included on a Men's/Ladies team with another club. A club which intends using a player/players from another club must have that team passed by the MBA Committee before the commencement of the League. Any additional player must be passed by the Committee before play and by 1st February of that season.

Where a player has availed of this rule to play on a team with a different club in the League, then if he/she wishes to play in the Cup, then it must be with that same club.

Where a player who has chosen to play with another club in a chosen discipline they can only play with that club in that discipline in all grades.

Should a club need a sub to play on a certain night then the sub must come from the "named" club.

In the event that the 'named' club has no subs, then, when entering the team, subs from the second club may be registered, subject to them being passed by the Committee as previously stated.

CUP RULES

In addition to the standard Rules for the League, the following rules apply to the Cup Competition.

51. Composition of Teams

Mixed Cup Team:

Four person team of 2 men and 2 ladies will play 1 Men's Doubles, 1 Ladies Doubles and 4 Mixed Doubles. **All 4 players must play in the 1st and 2nd mixed doubles.** For the 3rd and 4th Mixed Doubles players change partners. Each match to consist of **2 games** (sets). So 6 matches in total with a maximum of 12 games.

Mens/Ladies Cup Team:

Four person teams will play six matches of **2 games (sets)**, where all players get to play a match with each other. There will be 6 matches in the tie instead of 4 as in League. Each player must play in three matches. **All 4 players must play in 1st and 2nd doubles, then all 4 players play in 3rd and 4th doubles, and finally all 4 play in 5th and 6th doubles.**

Teams do not have to play in order of merit. Players' Points Values do not matter.

52. Winner

Matches in the Cup shall be decided on the winning of the greater number of sets. If sets are equal then total points from all sets will be used to decide on the winner. **If teams are still level then rule 24 applies.**

53. List of Players

Each team must exchange completed list of players in order of play before commencement of match. **Each team must have their team sheet filled out by start time.**

54. Injury

Where a player is unable to complete his/her game due to injury or illness, the game(s) shall be conceded. In Finals a substitute may be used for the injured player's subsequent game. For a substitution to be in order, a player must firstly forfeit a game. All games and points won by the injured player before retiring are retained by the team.

55. Fixtures

All rounds of the Competition up to the final shall be played on or before the date specified in the draws. It shall be the duty of both clubs to make arrangements for the fulfilment of the tie with the opposing club. Failure to make contact with the opposing club, at least 2 weeks before the completion date for the round concerned may result in elimination of both teams from the competition.

In the event of either team being unable to make arrangements for the fulfilment of the tie, the secretary/match secretary must satisfy the MBA Secretary that every reasonable effort has been made towards that end. Failure to satisfy the Committee may lead to the team being scratched from the Competition. No postponement of a tie shall be permissible except with the sanction of the Secretary, Meath Badminton Association.

56. Shuttles

Teams shall use their own shuttles in alternate games. The choice of shuttles in the first game shall be decided by tossing a coin. Feather shuttles to be used as per League.

57. Suppers

In all Cup matches the **Home Team** should provide a supper. Teams who do not provide a supper will not get a home game venue for the following season.

58. Venue

In Cup semi-finals the opposing team can object to a home venue of other club if it feels that it confers an unfair advantage. If objecting, the club must do so as soon as it knows its opposition by contacting the MBA Secretary, stating the reason for the objection and obtain permission to arrange a neutral venue. The objecting club will have to pay for the neutral venue.

MEATH CHAMPIONSHIPS

1.

In order to play in the Meath Championships all competitors must be affiliated to and registered with the MBA before his/her event.

2.

All players must play at their League grading or higher. No player is permitted to play below his/her designated grade. **Juveniles wishing to enter the Meath Championships must be over 16 years on 1st Sept of the current season and have a points grade from the MBA Committee. Any exception to this age is only by special permission from MBA Committee.**

3.

The previous year's event winners may re-enter the same grade with a different partner if their points value are applicable. **The winners of a Grade 1 event cannot enter with the same partner the following year.**

4.

The committee reserves the right to abandon any event if there are insufficient entries.

5.

All draws will be seeded.

6.

Proper badminton attire must be worn for all matches.

7.

Winners of the various events will be eligible to represent Meath in the Leinster Individual Graded Championships in their respective grades. Where two league grades have been combined in these championships, the best performers of the grade other than that of the winners will be nominated by the Committee to compete in their grade in the Leinster Graded Championships.

INTER-COUNTY

A player who wishes to be considered for selection for a Meath Inter-County team must play in the Meath League or the Meath Championships in that season. Such player must also satisfy the rules of eligibility for the respective Leinster and Badminton Ireland inter-county competitions.

OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Any matter arising not covered by these rules shall be decided by the Committee.