

## RULES | 2025-26 SEASON

---

### SECTION 9: CUP AND PLATE COMPETITIONS

- 9.1 Entry to the competitions shall not be compulsory, but participating League clubs may enter any number of teams. Clubs entering the Cup competition must indicate whether they wish to participate in the Plate competition if qualified to do so as provided for in Rules 9.3 and 9.4.
- 9.2 If the number of teams entering the Cup competitions is such that a full draw cannot be made, teams entering will be seeded based on their handicaps. The top number of seeds required to give a full draw in the second round will receive byes from the first round.
- 9.3 If the first round of the Cup competition comprises a full draw, teams qualifying for the Plate competition shall be those who play and lose in this round.
- 9.4 If the first round of the Cup competition does not comprise a full draw, teams qualifying for the Plate competition shall be those who play and lose in the first round plus those who play and lose in the second round provided they have not played and won in the first round.
- 9.5 The first round draw of the Plate competition shall include all qualifying teams regardless of handicap.
- 9.6 Except as provided for in Rule 9.2, the ties for each round of the Cup and Plate competitions shall be obtained by an unseeded draw, the first team out of the draw being the home team who shall be responsible for arranging the date and venue of the match and informing the visiting team at least seven days before the commencement of the match. The draw for the semi-finals shall be made in the presence of the participating team captains immediately prior to the matches being played. The Cup Committee shall endeavour to arrange semi-final and final ties on neutral courts where possible, but may nominate any venue at their discretion.
- 9.7 When required to do so, each participating club shall submit a list of players in strict order of merit who will represent that club in the competition. If a club does not submit such a list by the required date, it will be assumed that the club does not wish to enter the competition.
- 9.8 Teams in the Cup and Plate matches shall comprise of three men and three women. Clubs shall not register less than this number for each team. However, clubs may register more than this number to represent each team provided that all players registered in the A team are merited higher than those in the B team and so on. The registration of players which do not comply with the club's order of merit is not permitted and any players registered separate to the provisions of this rule shall be regarded as being registered in the club's lowest team.
- 9.9 Except as provided for in Rule 9.11, additions to the registration list may be made in writing to the Cup Secretary provided that the additional registration is consistent with the club's order of merit and that seven days' notice prior to the Monday of Cup week is given.
- 9.10 Except as provided for in Rule 9.11, any player may be re-registered from one to another team provided that the club's order of merit is maintained with due regard to the current form of its players. Seven days' notice of re-registration prior to the Monday of Cup week shall be given to the Cup secretary and confirmed in writing.
- 9.11 No new registrations or re-registration to a lower team shall be permitted after the round of the Cup and Plate competitions immediately prior to the semi-final round. Additionally, when a team ceases to remain in either the Cup or Plate competitions the players registered for that team at the time of its elimination shall not be allowed to be re-registered to a lower team.
- 9.12 Players may only be registered for the Cup and Plate competitions for a club for which registered in the League.
- 9.13 In the event of a player playing in a team lower than that for which registered, the game in which the offence took place and all games below this will be awarded 21-0 21-0 to the opposing team.
- 9.14 In the event of a club playing an unregistered player, the game in which the offence took place and all games below this will be awarded 21-0 21-0 to the opposing team.
- 9.15 If a club requires a player to play in a team higher than that for which registered, the player may be selected from any of the club's registered players provided that the player is not registered for a team higher than that for which required.
- 9.16 A player may not play for a higher team than that for which registered on more than two occasions throughout the currency of the Cup and Plate competitions. The total of two shall be the cumulative regardless of which of the club's higher teams the player represented. If a player represents a higher team more than twice, the events in which the player played shall be awarded to the opposing team by two games to love. The points scored in such games shall be

- 
- 21 to the team to whom they are awarded, and the adjusted handicap score, whether plus or minus, to the offending team.
- 9.17 No player shall be allowed to play in more than one Cup or Plate match in the same night.
- 9.18 All participating teams shall be allocated a handicap based the submitted list of players which will apply throughout both Cup and Plate competitions. Handicaps cannot be altered except that the Cup Committee reserve the right to re-handicap in the event of a change of a team's personnel by virtue of a new player registration or a re-registration as provided for in rules 9.9 and 9.10. There shall be no alteration of handicap for a player representing a team higher than that for which registered.
- 9.19 Each match shall consist of nine games comprising three mixed, three women's and three men's doubles, each event comprising two games of 21 points. The Rally Point scoring system will be used, as defined in Badminton Wales, 'The Laws of Badminton', except games are only to 21 points and it is not necessary to win by 2 clear points, if the score becomes 20-all. The result of the match shall be decided by the number of games won by each team. In the event of a tie, the team scoring the most points shall be the winner. In the event of a further tie, the first mixed pairs shall play one extra game, the result of which shall decide the match.
- 9.20 Prior to the commencement of play, captains shall simultaneously exchange team sheets and alterations shall not be permitted during the course of the match. It is not necessary for the pairing of couples to follow a club's order of merit, but pairs nominated on the team sheet shall be played in strict order of strength in all events.
- 9.21 At the end of each match, two copies of the score sheet must be signed by the home and visiting captains and the time of commencement of play inserted. The home captain shall be responsible for forwarding one copy of the score sheet to the Cup Secretary and one copy to the Media Coordinator. All scoresheets must be received by both the Cup Secretary and the Media Coordinator within 3 days of a match.
- 9.22 Matches shall commence promptly at the time stated on the website and continue without interruption. The order of play shall be mixed doubles in order of merit, followed by the level doubles in order of merit alternating between men's and women's. Players must be available for play on this basis unless prior arrangement has been reached between opposing captains. Any pair not available for play when required shall forfeit the event for which they were late by 21 points to their adjusted handicapped score. The order of play may be varied during a match by agreement between captains. Any player arriving 30 minutes after start time, without prior permission, shall forfeit two games by the score of 21 points to their adjusted handicapped score.
- 9.23 Visiting teams shall abide by the bye-laws of the home club with regard to lets and faults providing they do not contravene the laws of badminton. Opposing captains shall resolve any other matters which may affect play prior to commencement.
- 9.24 Feather shuttles shall be used in all Cup and Plate events which shall be provided by the home team, except that in the semi-finals and finals the League shall provide the shuttles.
- 9.25 Cup and Plate matches must be played during the weeks designated on the website except as provided for in Rules 9.26 and 28.
- 9.26 The postponement of matches is not permitted except for the unavailability of the hall, or in exceptional circumstances, by order of the Cup Committee. Any club wishing to postpone a match must obtain permission of the Cup Secretary before informing the opposing club.
- 9.27 Any match postponed in accordance with Rule 9.26 must be played during the two weeks immediately following the designated week. The home club of a postponed fixture will be responsible for re-arranging the match by offering the opposing club in writing not less than two alternative dates, one of which must be accepted in writing. For this purpose, the Cup and Plate competitions shall take precedence over League fixtures, but the away club may refuse a date on a Sunday or one which coincides with any other League event, in which case a suitable date must be offered. The home club must inform the Cup Secretary of the revised date of the fixture immediately it is confirmed.
- 9.28 If a match is not completed within the time first stipulated in Rule 9.27 the Cup Committee shall determine the result of the match.
- 9.29 The Cup Committee reserve the right to refuse entry to the Cup and Plate competitions for a specified reason.
- 9.30 Registered clubs and players shall have the right to have any complaint investigated by the League Committee. All complaints must be made in writing to the appropriate secretary within seven days of the event causing complaint. If the complaint involves another party, a copy of the letter must simultaneously be sent to that party. In the case of a complaint arising from a late start or unavailability of players in a Cup or Plate fixture as required in Rule 9.22, the protesting captain must additionally inform the opposing captain at the time of the occurrence. Any affiliated club or player involved in a dispute shall have the right to be represented at the Committee meeting at which the dispute is considered.