

DERBYSHIRE LADIES LEAGUE RULES SEPTEMBER 2006

LEAGUE STRUCTURE

1. The league will comprise of a single division with teams of 5 players.
2. Each team will play all other teams in the league twice, once at home and once away.
3. The annual entry fee per team is set by the DSRA committee and must be paid before 1st September.
4. All clubs entering teams in the league must be affiliated to England Squash (ES). Similarly, all team players should be player members of ES and the respective ES membership numbers should be provided with the nominations.

FIXTURES

1. All fixtures will be arranged by the DSRA ladies league secretary.
2. Rearrangement of these fixtures should be avoided if at all possible. However, if it is necessary to rearrange a fixture the ladies league secretary must be informed as soon as possible of the mutually agreeable date.
3. Provided at least 3 players are available the match should be played as scheduled, with players moving into higher positions according to the nominations. In the event of a club being unable to field 3 players, the match will be awarded on a 'points average' basis.
4. The team that is unable to fulfil a fixture, for whatever reason, is responsible for informing the league secretary and the opposing team contact at least 48 hours prior to the fixture date.

SCORING

1. Each individual match will be the best of 5 games. Each team shall score 1 point for each individual game won and the team that wins the most games shall receive an extra 3 points for a match win (ie maximum of 18 points per match). The team with the greatest number of points after all the matches have been played shall be declared the winner. If these are equal, then it shall be decided on games won and, if necessary, on game points.

PLAYER QUALIFICATION

All players must be genuine playing members of a squash club affiliated to ES and they may only play for one club during 1 season. In exceptional circumstances e.g. a club withdrawing a team from the league, a player may apply to the league secretary/committee to play for another club.

PLAYER NOMINATION

1. Each team shall nominate all its players plus reserves in order of merit. There must be a minimum of 5 players per team entered. Nominations must be made IN WRITING twice during the season:
 - a) by the first match in September;
 - b) by the first match in January.
2. During EACH half-season:
 - a) A player may not play lower than her nominated position;
 - b) Any nominated player may 'play-up' for any higher team TWICE only. On the third occasion that player plays up she will be tied to the higher team and will not be permitted to play for the lower team for the remainder of the half season.
3. If it becomes obvious during the season that the order of merit has changed, then teams may re-nominate at additional dates to those specified above. However, the league secretary must be informed prior to the players concerned taking part in a team match.
4. Players must be fit to play. Fielding a player who is unwell or injured in order to maintain the strength of the team will not be permitted. Pregnant ladies may play in the Derbyshire leagues until

16 weeks gestation, after which time she must be removed from the nominations and may not represent her club at any position in any team.

5. A club which violates any of the rules associated with player nominations will lose all rubbers affected by that violation, each counting as a 3-0 loss. Furthermore, 4 penalty points will be deducted for the team directly concerned with the infringement.

MATCH ARRANGEMENTS

1. All matches will be played under I.S.R.F. rules.
2. The home team will be responsible for making all necessary arrangements for matches, including confirming the arrangements with the opposing team not less than 5 days prior to the match.
3. The result card must be completed, signed and immediately sent to the league secretary. The league secretary must be notified of the result no more than 5 working days after the fixture has been played.

START TIMES

1. A minimum of 3 home team players and 2 away team players must be at the match venue by the advertised start time, unless otherwise arranged by both teams. Ideally ALL players should be available at the start.
2. The remaining players should arrive at the match venue within 30 minutes of the match commencement unless otherwise notified to both team captains.
3. If a player has notified her team captain of exceptional circumstances surrounding her delayed arrival (e.g. unexpected childcare issues, work commitments or a car accident), but subsequently fails to arrive before the end of the remaining individual matches, then that rubber only shall be forfeited.
4. If a player fails to arrive during a match (i.e. whilst players are still on court) but has NOT notified her captain of the circumstances surrounding her non-arrival, then that rubber shall be forfeited and her team shall concede all rubbers below, each counting as a 3-0 loss.
5. The home team should have 1 court available at the advertised start time. Play must be continuous and sufficient court time should be made available for conclusion of the match on the fixture date. If a rubber is not finished then the away player will have the option to claim the rubber and the away team may claim any other rubbers that are not concluded.

CANCELLATIONS AND NON-ARRIVALS

1. Any team that fails to turn up for a fixture or cancels without giving at least 48 hours notice will forfeit the match and it will count on a 'points average' basis, unless both team captains agree to the rearrangement of the fixture. In either case the league secretary should be informed of the decision as soon as possible.
2. Any away team having to cancel a fixture should offer reimbursement of half the out-of-pocket expenses incurred to the home team.

RULE QUERIES AND DISPUTES

1. Queries concerning the league rules, disputes prior to or during a match or any other eventualities must be referred to the league secretary immediately. If any issues cannot be resolved at this stage, then the league secretary will refer the dispute to the DSRA committee who will decide on what action is to be taken.
2. The DSRA committee reserves the right to penalise any club which makes obvious infringements against the spirit of the league rules and their decision will be final.

(Sept 2006)