**JOHN FORD TOURNAMENT RULES**

**(Last amendment October 2023)**

* The tournament will be open to teams of registered players from clubs who are fully paid-up members of Crewe and District Badminton League
* Each participating club may enter as many teams as they wish in any one season
* In any one season the Executive will decide if an entry fee is payable. If so it will be set by the Executive and that fee will be payable at the AGM preceding the season. All clubs are automatically entered into the competition with one team. Extra teams may be entered at the club’s request.
* If a club wishes to withdraw completely from the competition in any one season they must declare this at the AGM. No fee is then payable.
* Once all teams have been entered and paid for (if required), the executive will arrange a draw based on home team and away team.
* The matches thus drawn will be announced at the Fixture Meeting for the coming season. The Fixture Secretaries will arrange the first round fixtures in conjunction with the away team, along with league fixtures, at a mutually agreed date. All first round matches must be completed before Christmas.
* The first round(s) will be played on the basis of a home team entertaining the away team at their home venue and playing according to the playing regulations at that venue.
* All costs associated with the tie must be shared equally. The home team provide the venue, the away team provide the shuttles (which must be in accordance with the league rules for approved feathered shuttles). In practise the two teams can each agree to provide shuttles of the same make and speed. Where there is any question over the make and speed, the home team may make the choice. Irrespective of venue cost and shuttle costs, the financial burden must be equally shared.
* Each team will be represented by six players, two Ladies and four Gentlemen
* If a club enters more than one team (in all probability two teams but may be more) in any one season it is expected that the teams will comprise 12 (or more) different players from that club in the first round of the competition. In subsequent rounds the club may use different players who have not yet represented the club in that season’s tournament.
* If a club experiences availability problems and wishes to use a player who has already played in an earlier eliminated team, this may be possible upon application to the executive explaining the situation.
* Each match will be played to the designated format of 9 events comprising 18 games, fourof which will be mixed doubles and four level doubles Gents, one level doublesLadies). The format will specify which events each of the nominated players will contest. Each player will be required to play six games to 21 points in any one match.
* Each team will be asked to nominate their players in advance of the event listing their players in order, where the order represents the playing order on the match sheet.
* Changes to nominations can be made before the match, so long as the executive are informed in time to re-handicap if that has already been done.
* The competition is handicapped in such a way that one team will be given an additional number of points to add to their achieved total. Handicaps will be determined in advance of the match by an independent panel. The resultant handicap will be sealed in an envelope for opening at the conclusion of the match.
* Whenever possible at least one member of the executive will attend the venue for the fixture to oversee handicapping. If that was for any reason impossible arrangements, will be made in advance and a phone contact available for match night queries.
* In the event a nominated player does not turn up for the match, the games they would have played are conceded 21-0. If a last-minute substitute can be nominated, the executive must be informed immediately and before any play commences involving that player the handicap will be revised to take account of the change in overall strength of the team. If the executive cannot make an immediate change to the handicap, then the match should be played out but the result not reported. The executive will determine the handicap prior to getting the result.
* Late arrival of any team will be handled according to the league rules with the potential of conceding games at the end of the match if time runs out.
* If a player is injured during the match, any one of the other players (Lady or Gent) may complete any un-started games for them assuming time and court availability permits. If this is not the case games which cannot be played must be conceded (21-0). The game in progress at the time of injury is recorded as (21- current score). If the match can be completed then the substitute players results will count for any full games they play. In this instance the envelope should not be opened. The executive will re-handicap the match either at the venue, or possibly after the match. As above, the match result should not be made known to the executive.
* The score sheet must be completed as the match progresses. After all games are played each team should verify that the totalled points are correct. The envelope can be opened by any of the players. The handicap awarded should then be added to the recorded totals to yield a winner on the night. The scoresheet should be completed with the handicapped result and taken by the executive member present or forwarded by a home team representative if there is no-one present.
* In the extremely unlikely event of a tied score after handicapping the results of the four events will be calculated. Four ninths (0.44) of the full handicap rounded up to the nearest integer will be added to the resultant totals in order to decide a winner. If this still results in a tie then the same calculation based on the four mens events will be made. If still a tie then the outcome of the single ladies event expressed in terms of the points multiplied by one ninth (0.11) of the handicap rounded up to the nearest integer.
* After the first round(s) of matches on a home/away basis the executive will stage a quarter-final night at a suitable venue. All quarter-final matches will be played on that date. There will be a draw made to establish the fixtures. One team will nominally be the home team and have shuttle choice rights if that became necessary. Both teams should provide shuttles for use in the match. Court hire costs will be handled by the executive and each participating team asked for an equal contribution to cover it. Both teams should share the shuttle costs and usage by agreement with each other.
* A semi-final night will be arranged by the executive on the same basis as the quarter-final night with one additional factor. The cost of the semi-final to a club will be capped at £20. If the costs amount to more than £40 (two clubs at £20 capped) then the league will bear the excess costs.
* A finals night will be arranged by the executive. On this occasion the league will bear the costs of court hire and provide the shuttles.
* Winners of the final will be awarded the John Ford Trophy to keep for one year. This trophy must be returned to the executive before the published date for the semi-finals the following season. The league will bear the cost of engraving. Additionally, the league will purchase winners and runner-up medals for each member of final teams.
* John Ford tournament results will be publicised on the web site