



Warwickshire Teams League
Rules & Conditions of Competition
Current for 2012/13 Season Only

0. Changes

For 2012-13 Season

- a. League Secretary changed and new contact information added
- b. Section added to clarify formation of divisions
- c. Summary and Eligibility clarified such that teams may represent a club or organisation, or may consist of a group of individuals.
- d. Fielding ineligible player rule moved to Scoring from Eligibility.
- e. Substitutes rule clarified and changed such that substituting in the same team more than twice in a season makes you a member of that team.
- f. Rules added to cover adding and removing players to/from a team.

1. Summary of Competition

- a. This is a teams of four league for Warwickshire players. Teams may consist of between four and eight players all of whom must be members of EBU and WCBA.

2. Eligibility

- a. All players and substitutes must be members of the EBU and WCBA (ordinary, dual or direct).
- b. Teams may represent a club or organisation, or may consist of a group of individuals independent of any organisation.
- c. If a team represents a club or organisation then all players and substitutes must also be members of that club or organisation.

3. Entry

- a. Entries should also be sent to the League Secretary (ref. Section 16 below) either by email or by post before the last Sunday in August.
- b. The entry must contain the names and EBU numbers of all players in the team. The maximum number of players in a team is 8.
- c. Each team must also provide the names, addresses, contact numbers and email addresses if possible, of 2 contacts in the team with their entry. The primary point of contact should be the person in the team responsible for arranging matches.

- d. Team entry fee of £5 per team should be sent direct to the treasurer - Mr Leslie Reece, 2 Pine Close, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9FB (tel. 01789 298651) no later than the end of October.
- e. Players can be officially removed from a team by the team captain informing the League Secretary formally by email or letter.
- f. Players can be officially added to a team by the team captain informing the League Secretary formally by email or letter, giving the information required as in (b) above. Players will be eligible to be added as long as they have not played for a different team in the same division or a team in a higher division except as a substitute, and as long as the number of players in the team does not exceed 8.

4. Substitutes

- a. A member of a team may only substitute for another team in a higher division.
- b. Any player who is a member of a team and who substitutes in the same team more than twice in a season will be deemed a member of that team. Their membership of their original team will be revoked.
- c. Any player who is not a member of a team who substitutes in the same team more than twice in a season will be deemed a member of that team.

5. Format

- a. Teams in any one match comprise four players. Matches will be of 28 boards played in two sets of 14 boards, with each pair playing each of the opposing pairs.
- b. The formation of divisions will depend upon the number of entries. The ideal structure will be as below. The League Management Committee, however, has the power to adjust these numbers should circumstances require it.

Number of Teams	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4
16	8	8		
17	9	8		
18	6	6	6	
19	7	6	6	
20	7	7	6	
21	7	7	7	
22	8	7	7	
23	8	8	7	
24	8	8	8	
25	9	8	8	
26	9	9	8	
27	9	9	9	
28	7	7	7	7

6. Arranging Matches

- a. The captain of the home team must offer the away captain a choice of no fewer than 3 dates (not all on the same day of the week nor all in the same week) in the due calendar month.
- b. The away captain should reply within a week, either to accept one of these dates, or to offer alternatives. Matches may by agreement be played earlier than specified in the fixture list.
- c. If the away captain has not received a due offer of dates, he should contact the home captain.
- d. At least 3 matches should be played by the end of December. These matches should be arranged by the end of September. In the event that any team does not have these matches arranged by the deadline then they must contact the League Secretary by the end of September.
- e. If a team fails to play 3 matches by the end of December deadline and the team is deemed at fault by the League Secretary then 2 VPs per match not played will be deducted from the team's season score.
- f. The remaining matches should be played by the end of April. These matches should be arranged by the end of January. In the event that any team does not have these matches arranged by the deadline then they must contact the League Secretary by the end of January.
- g. The League Secretary may at his discretion, if there are extenuating circumstances, agree to extend the deadline until the end of May.
- h. For matches not arranged in time, if neither team has contacted the League Secretary by the deadline, both teams will be deemed at fault. The League Secretary will decide in other situations which team(s) is at fault.
- i. Any matches still unplayed by the end of season deadline will be scored as follows :
 - i. If both teams are deemed to be at fault the match score will be 0-0
 - ii. if only one team is deemed to be at fault the match score will be 8-0 in favour of the non-offending team
 - iii. if a team is unable to play a match due to extreme circumstances (such as the death of one of its players) and the team has otherwise observed the rules then, at the discretion of the League Secretary, the match score will be 8-4 in favour of the non-offending team
- j. If a team fails to complete half its matches all its results will be declared void.

7. Venue

- a. The home team must arrange accommodation for the match. Matches will normally be played at a WCBA club but may, if agreed by both captains, be played at an alternative venue that is warm, well-lit and quiet. Refreshments need only be minimal (e.g. tea and biscuits).

8. Systems and Conventions

- a. Conventions up to and including EBU level 4 are permitted. EBU regulations must be followed, particularly with regard to full completion of convention cards, alerting procedures etc. Bidding boxes must be used.

9. Scoring

- a. Scoring is by IMPs converted to Victory Points on the following scale:-

IMP	VP
0-3	6-6
4-11	7-5
12-19	8-4
20-28	9-3
29-39	10-2
40-55	11-1
56+	12-0

- b. No victory points will be awarded to a team for a match in which it plays any ineligible player.

10. Late Arrival

- a. Where a complete team does not arrive at the correct venue on time, up to 30 minutes delay should be allowed without penalty. After that time one board will be removed from the contest for each further 7 minutes delay and 3 imps will be credited to the non-offending side for each board thus removed.
- b. Should a team indicate that they will be unable to provide a full team, or team member(s) have failed to arrive 90 minutes after the agreed start time, the non-offending team may claim the match. Each instance of a claimed match should be reported to the League Secretary at the earliest opportunity, who will normally award a score of 8-0 to the non-offending side, but may at his discretion award a different score.
- c. Team captains are encouraged to reschedule the match to a later date where the reason for the non-appearance of a team is beyond that team's control, e.g. being involved in a car accident on the way to the match, or sudden illness of a player or close family member, would qualify as a valid reason for non-attendance. The team captains may mutually agree to postpone the match at any time prior to the agreed start time. The League Secretary should be informed of any such agreement.
- d. If the team captains disagree on the validity of the reason for rescheduling a match, then the League Secretary's decision on the matter will be final.

11. Rulings & Appeals

- a. Please refer to the WCBA Common Rules for information on how to obtain a ruling or conduct an appeal.

12. Results and Tables

- a. Results should be notified by email to the address shown on the fixture list.
- b. Alternatively, a result card signed by both captains should be sent by the home captain to the League Secretary within 48 hours of the match.
- c. Results sent by either method must contain the names of the players for both teams, the exact IMP scores (i.e. IMPs for and IMPs against), plus the VP score.
- d. In addition to the above, captains should enter the result and the team members for each match on the EBU League Management System which they will be able to access via a link on their individual EBU member area.
- e. League tables based on results received will be available via a link on the WCBA website.

13. Ties

- a. At the end of the season ties will be broken by consideration of the VPs won in the matches between the tying teams. If the VP result was a draw, the IMP score will be used. If there is still a tie, it will be broken in favour of the team with the better IMP difference over the whole season.

14. Master Points

- a. Local points will be issued automatically at the end of the season.

15. Promotion and Relegation

- a. Subject to the caveat below, at the end of the season the top two teams in each division will be promoted to the next higher division, and the bottom two or three teams will be relegated to the next lower division.
- b. The Executive Committee retains the right to adjust the number of teams in any division by further promotion or relegation, or by non-promotion or non-relegation, or by accepting new teams at its discretion.
- c. Should the number of divisions have to be altered, any such change will be based on the order of merit in the most recent season.

16. Contacts

- a. League Secretary: Ron Birch (0121 384 4850), 66 Holifast Road, Sutton Coldfield B72 1AE, LeagueSec@warwickshirebridge.co.uk