

# CHESHIRE SQUASH LADIES LEAGUE RULES

## 1. DIVISIONS, PROMOTIONS AND RELEGATIONS

The league shall be open to all squash clubs in Cheshire and the surrounding area (by prior application to the League Committee) who are affiliated to England Squash. The league will be run by the League Secretary under the direction of the CSRA. There will be 1 x Division 1, 2 x Division 2, 2 x Division 3, 2 x Division 4, 2 x Division 5. (NB there may be some variance because of the number of teams applying.)

At the end of the season the teams in positions 11 and 12 of Division 1 will be relegated. The top team from each Division 2 will be promoted and the teams in the bottom two positions of each Division 2 will be relegated. The top two teams from each Division 3 will be promoted and the teams in the bottom two positions from each Division 3 will be relegated. The top two teams from each Division 4 will be promoted and the teams in the bottom two positions from each Division 4 will be relegated. The top two teams from each Division 5 will be promoted. In the event of two or more teams at the end of the season having the same number of points for, the teams having the least points against shall be placed higher. If the points against are equal and promotion or relegation is at stake, then there shall be a play-off. (NB This may vary subject to the number of divisions. Clubs will be advised of promotion/relegation rules for the lower leagues at the beginning of each season).

**Play-offs:** Play-offs will be over the weekend / Monday following the end of the season (holidays permitting). No re-arrangement of matches will be allowed. If a winning team is unable to compete the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team will be offered the option to play or a walk over will be given.

## 2. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

All players must be current members of the Club which they represent. Teams shall consist of five female players who shall play in strict merit order. No player may play more than once in the same league or in more than one match on the same day.

Where a Club has two teams in the same Division it must play its teams in order of merit.

Any player who has not played for her Club by 1<sup>st</sup> December of the current season may only do so after obtaining agreement from the CSRA Ladies League Committee as to the player's ranking and position. This rule will not be applied where a player will be playing in the lowest position. Players may not play in the last four league matches or the play-offs unless they have played at least four times for their Club in the league earlier in the season.

Players may normally only play for one club during a season. However, the committee will consider written application within the first 4 weeks of the season. (NB Transfer thereafter is unlikely to be approved)

**Ranking List/Team Order** Before the first match of the season teams must submit to the League Secretary a ranking list of all players available for league team selection, showing true merit position. (NB The ranking list should indicate those players who are club grade (or higher) qualified markers).

**Changes in team order** The team position outlined in the ranking list are to be maintained throughout the season unless:

(a) As a result of improved playing ability a player has shown she is capable of holding a higher position. (NB a one-off win does not necessarily represent true merit position).

(b) When the No. 1 player on the lower team substitutes at the No. 5 position on the higher team, the team must move up accordingly. NB A player cannot alternate between Nos. 5 and No. 1 to ensure that they always play at home.

**Updated ranking lists must be submitted to the League Secretary if there are changes in the team order.**

Changes may not be made to team order to compensate for lack of agility in a player through injury. A player with an obvious disability who would not be able to complete a match should not be considered for inclusion in the team.

**Pregnant players** If any team includes a player who is more than five months pregnant, the Team Captain must ring the opposition at least a week in advance to see if they will agree to play against that player. If the opposition do not agree, that player must not be included in the team that week and positions must not be changed so that she can play on a higher or lower team – the player concerned must play in her normal ranking position or not at all. (This Rule exists for the benefit of players concerned about harming the mother-to-be/unborn baby, not to stop teams playing a good player.)

### THE LEAGUE SECRETARY WILL MONITOR THE RANKING LISTS AND THE PLAYING ORDER ON MATCH NIGHT

## 3. TEAMS

Captains must present a list containing their respective team orders to their opposite numbers before the commencement of a match. All substitutions made shall be in strict merit playing order. If a team is known to have a missing player before a match starts, or if a person does not turn up, the remaining players shall move up in position in the playing order and walk-overs shall be awarded in the lowest positions. If the lower strings have already played, their points will be forfeit and the lower teams may be penalised at the discretion of the Committee. Teams may not play with less than five players and leave lower teams with five members. No team may play a match with less than three players.

## 4. MATCH PLAY AND SCORING

Matches shall consist of five games and shall be played on Monday evening as arranged on the fixture list. Match play should be in the order 5,4,3,2,1 unless specifically arranged with the opposing Team Captain prior to the match starting time. Play should be continuous, if not, strings unplayed and any lower will be forfeited. Points will be one for each game won with four bonus points for winning the match. The match card is to be supplied by the home team and sent by the winning team, fully completed, to the League Secretary within one week of the match date.

Results will be available on the internet. Late arriving cards mean that it is difficult to compile results on time. Financial penalty may be imposed on teams submitting cards late.

## 5. MATCH DATE ALTERATIONS

Match dates may only be altered for bona fide reasons outside the control of the clubs concerned and these reasons may not include failure to turn out a full team except in the case of bad weather hindering travel between clubs.

**Bad weather:** If, on the day of the match, weather conditions are such that the match has to be postponed, the rearranged date **must** be within a month of the original fixture and be agreed by **both** Team Captains. If a mutually acceptable date cannot be agreed upon then the date shall be decided by the League Secretary.

Teams wishing to alter a match date **must** first obtain the permission of the League Secretary

**If a Club is unable to field the team originally selected then permission to play substitutes must be sought from the League Secretary before the match can be played.**

## 6. MATCH WALK-OVERS

A walk-over is defined as a fixture for which one side fails to raise more than two players. In Division One walk-overs will not be allowed and a team failing to raise more than two players for any fixture will be relegated at the end of the season. If the team continues to play the season out then scores recorded in matches it has played will not be cancelled. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Division a team conceding two or more walk-overs in a season will be relegated at the end of the season. If teams continue to play the season out then scores recorded in matches it has played will not be cancelled.

(If a team pulls out during the first half of the season then all scores recorded in matches it has played will be cancelled. If a team pulls out after the first half of the season then scores recorded in the first half will be kept the same but any scores recorded in the second half will be cancelled.)

In the event of a conceded match, a score card must be appropriately completed and submitted by the team to whom the match has been awarded.

## 7. STARTING TIME AND AVAILABILITY OF COURTS

All players from each team should be present 10 minutes before the match starting time which is notified in the pre-season Club information.

Clubs must have their courts available from between 7.00 pm and 7.40 pm and to avoid late finishing more than one court, per team, **must** be available by 8.30 pm.

- It is not in the spirit of the game to claim matches because of late arrival of your opposition. All matches must be played wherever possible. Any penalty arising from late arrival will be at the discretion of the Ladies League Committee.

## 8. MARKING AND TYPE OF BALL

On match night each team must have two 'club grade' qualified markers. All matches must be marked. The home team should provide the necessary marking equipment. Unless otherwise agreed by the opposing captains the home team shall be responsible for three strings and the away team for two strings.

Balls and courts shall be to England Squash standard. A new double yellow dot black ball shall be used for each court at all times.

A single yellow dot black ball may only be used provided the opposition have agreed to using a single yellow dot black ball, prior to the start of the match. Once the type of ball has been agreed then this must be used throughout the match.

## 9. DISPUTES & APPEALS

All requests to the Ladies League Committee for decisions on the Rules must be made within seven days of the match or incident to which they refer, in writing, to the Ladies League Secretary provided that the Committee may in its absolute discretion consider any such request notwithstanding that the period of seven days has expired.

The Ladies League Committee will decide all questions which may arise under the Rules and may impose such penalties on teams, clubs and/or individuals as it deems appropriate and shall decide all matters which cannot be settled by the League Secretary.

An appeal may be made against any decision of the Ladies League Committee under the above either (a) to the Ladies League Committee by sending a written request to the Ladies League Secretary within 14 days of being notified of the decision appealed against. In the case of an appeal to the Ladies League Committee, this Committee shall appoint an Appeals Sub-Committee (selected at the first meeting of the Committee after the AGM) comprising of three independent individuals. Such an Appeals Committee will have all the powers of the Ladies League Committee to impose those penalties which it considers appropriate.

Or (b) to England Squash where appropriate in accordance with the Rules or Regulations of England Squash applicable at the time of such appeal.

The decision of either England Squash or the Appeals Committee will be final.

## 10. CLOTHING

Clothing must be in keeping with England Squash recommendations. Any dispute regarding a player's clothing must be settled by the opposing captains.

## 11. CATERING

It is the responsibility of the home team to provide a light supper on completion of play. **Any player not intending to stay for supper must inform her Captain well in advance to enable the meal to be cancelled – this is particularly important for away matches.**

## 12. AFFILIATION FEES

The league fee will be set annually by the Cheshire Squash Ladies Committee and ratified by Cheshire S.R.A. Fees become payable at the A.G.M.

**ENTRIES AND WITHDRAWALS FROM THE LEAGUE TO BE RECEIVED BY THE LEAGUE SECRETARY BY OR AT THE AGM**

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE RULES SHALL BE REGARDED BY THE COMMITTEE AS SUFFICIENT REASON FOR AWARDED POINTS FOR THE TIES CONCERNED TO THE OTHER SIDE OR IMPOSING A FINE OR BOTH. (01/06/05)**

01/06/05