

5/ DIVISIONS

a. Structure

The number of teams allocated to any one division within each section shall be at the discretion of the Committee. The final allocation shall be made in the best interests of all member clubs.

Wherever practicable, the number of teams in any one division should be at least six.

If there are unequal numbers of teams in any section the lower divisions should contain more teams than the divisions above them. Any restructuring of the divisions within any section necessitated by the withdrawal of previously registered teams, or from registration of new teams, shall not be considered as a 'promotion and relegation issue' and Rule 5b will not apply.

New teams will be placed in the lowest division, or at the discretion of the Committee.

b. Placings

The team that gains the most league points shall be the champion of its division. In the event of a tie the champion shall be decided by the number of fixtures won. In the case of league points and fixtures being equal then the results of the league fixtures between the two sides will decide the winner. In the event of a tie at this stage the team winning the most games between them will be champions. If still equal, the clubs may either choose to play a one-off fixture at a neutral venue, both sharing expenses of hall and shuttles, or toss a coin in the presence of two Committee Officers.

The policy of automatic promotion and relegation will be adopted for the top two and bottom two teams in a division of six or more clubs, and for the top and bottom teams in a division of five or less clubs, except in circumstances agreed by the Committee. Any team withdrawing from the league during the season will be deemed to be automatically relegated and take either one of the relegation places or the only relegation place, dependent on the number of teams in the division.

c. Premier Division

If being run, the Premier Division can consist of UK county or equivalent-standard overseas players. All Rules relating to the Premier Division are as for other league sections but it also has its own set of guidelines and is overseen by the Premier Division Manager. The Premier Division is a 'standalone' division and teams/clubs/individuals cannot be relegated from, or promoted to, it from other divisions/areas.

6/ TEAMS

a. Structure

Ladies: There will be six sets/rubbers per fixture.

Teams in the Ladies Divisions shall comprise four players playing as two pairs. (A & B. C & D.)

Ladies A & B play Ladies A & B plus Ladies C & D.

Ladies C & D play Ladies A & B plus Ladies C & D.

Ladies A & D play Ladies A & D. Ladies B & C play Ladies B & C.

Mens: There will be six sets/rubbers per fixture.

Teams in the Mens Divisions shall comprise four players playing as two pairs. (A & B. C & D.)

Men A & B play Men A & B plus Men C & D.

Men C & D play Men A & B plus Men C & D.

Men A & D play Men A & D. Men B & C play Men B & C.

Mixed: There will be six sets/rubbers per fixture.

Teams in the Mixed Divisions shall comprise four players playing as two pairs.

(Lady A & Man A. Lady B & Man B.)

Lady A & Man A play Lady A & Man A plus Lady B & Man B.

Lady B & Man B play Lady A & Man A plus Lady B & Man B.

Lady A & Man B play Lady A & Man B. Lady B & Man A play Lady B & Man A.

b. Withdrawal

In the event of any team withdrawing from the league during the season all results concerning that team and other clubs' teams shall be deleted from the league tables. The withdrawing team shall be automatically relegated from both its division and the PHBA league. See Rule 5c for promotion and relegation issues. If the withdrawing team's club has more than one team in the league they shall inform the League Secretary which team is unable to fulfil its fixtures and that team, regardless of its position in any of the divisions, shall be the one removed.

Any other team(s) from that club, either above or below the removed team, will remain in their respective division(s) for the remainder of the season. Any players, having played for the withdrawing team, are only allowed to play up to a higher team, if applicable. The following season the remaining team(s) will need to be renamed.