



KNOCK-OUT (HANDICAP) COMPETITION RULES

1. The nominations for the Mixed Doubles League Competitions shall apply.

No player shall be permitted to play in a lower division than their nominated status. Players registered for a lower division team can be played up to a higher division team in the Knock-Out Cup but then must remain registered for that higher team for the remainder of the competition. This only applies to players who have not already played in the Cup in the current season.

Also, where a club has more than one team in the Knock-Out Cup (whichever section) once the lower team has been knocked out, it is permissible for players to play up in a higher ranked team

The allocated handicap figure will be assessed using each team's strongest potential playing strength as registered in the Mixed Doubles League Competition, and the eligibility requirements stated below.

To be eligible players shall comply with AT LEAST ONE of the following:

- (a) Shall be REGISTERED for the club in question, and have PLAYED a minimum of two mixed matches in the current season prior to November 15th.
- (b) Shall be REGISTERED for the club in question this current season, and have PLAYED, at the appropriate mixed level, for the same club a minimum of three times the previous season.
- (c) Shall have been given permission to participate prior to the event by the person designated in paragraph 7.

Permission to waive the two matches qualification required by paragraph 1(a) will be given only in exceptional circumstances, and where the playing strength of the person can be readily determined. In all such cases mandatory re-assessment of the relevant handicap figures will be made prior to, or on completion of, the match.

In the context of paragraphs 1(a) and 1(b), 'REGISTERED' and 'PLAYED' shall be interpreted as registered and played in the Mixed Doubles League Competition held under the auspices of this Association only.

2. Cost of hall and shuttles will be borne by both clubs, whether match is Home or Away. Feather shuttles to be used, unless BOTH clubs normally play with plastic.
3. Cost of refreshments to be agreed between participating teams.
4. Clubs have been issued with the Game Plan. The various rounds are to be completed by the following dates:
First Round - to be played in December

Second Round	-	to be played in January by January 31st
Third Round	-	to be played in February or March by March 31st
Semi-Finals	-	to be played in April by April 30th
Finals	-	will be played on 9th May, 2004

5. The matches can be played at any time at a place convenient to both clubs. The Home team shall arrange the hall booking. However, matches can be played at a neutral hall if so agreed.
6. An Away team can request a match to be played on its own ground if the hall offered is considered unsuitable. The Hall Adjustment is then transferred.
7. Result sheets must be returned to the KO Results Secretary (Sue Unwin/Chris Pawley, Upton Thatch, Upton, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP17 8UA) **within 24 hours** of the game being played.

Please notify the Results Secretary of the dates of matches so that Handicap Notification sheets can be forwarded to the appropriate teams.

8. Games will be Mixed Doubles, Men's Doubles and Ladies Doubles, there being a total of 15 games to 21 points.
9. The games are to be played in accordance with the format shown on the result sheet.
10. Each game will be to 21 points with no setting. Handicap Notification sheets will be issued before each match, and will give details of adjusted handicaps and scores at which ends are to be changed.
11. The result of the match will be on a points basis. In the event of a tie, the result will be determined on a 'games won' basis.
12. In the event that both clubs drawn to play one another use the same hall, no Hall Adjustment points will be given.
13. Home or Away is decided as follows:

First Round	-	Upper team = Home
Second Round	-	Lower team = Home
Third Round	-	Upper team = Home
Semi Finals	-	Lower team = Home
14. The Committee reserves the right to adjust handicaps should it be deemed necessary.

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