



KNOCK-OUT (HANDICAP) CUP COMPETITION RULES

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

No player shall be permitted to play in a lower division/team than their registered 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 cup-tied to that higher team for the remainder of the competition. This is only applicable to players who have not already played for a lower team in the Cup competition in the current season.

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

Example: Where a Club has two teams in the same Division, playing in the same section of the Cup, it will be deemed that the A team represents the stronger team. In this case, it is not permissible for A team players to play in the B team. However, B team players can play up in the A team if either a) they have not played at all in the Cup that season (however, they must then remain as an A team Cup player and cannot then play for the B team in the Cup) or b) if the B team has played and been knocked out of the Cup prior to the A team Cup match.

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 December 31st.
- (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 8.

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 Cup Draw. The various rounds are to be completed by the following dates:

First Round	-	to be played in January by January 31st
Second Round	-	to be played in February or March by March 31st
Semi-Finals	-	to be played in April by April 30th
Finals	-	to be played in May on a date and at a venue set by the Committee.

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. If played at a neutral venue, or in the event that both clubs drawn to play one another use the same hall, then no hall adjustment will be made. If the Home team's venue is not available for any reason, the two teams can agree to switch the match to the opposing team's venue. In this instance, the hall adjustment will then transfer to the new Away team.

The Hall adjustment is 10 points per match.

6. An Away team can request a match to be played at its own venue if the hall offered is considered unsuitable. The Hall Adjustment is then transferred.
7. The Cup Finals are played at Wycombe Badminton Centre. Should one of the finalists be a team that normally play their home league matches at WBC, the opposing team will gain the hall adjustment. Should neither or both teams play their home league matches at WBC, then no hall adjustment will be made.
8. Result sheets must be returned to the KO Results Secretary **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.

9. Games will be Mixed Doubles, Men's Doubles and Ladies Doubles, there being a total of 15 games to 21 points.
10. The games are to be played in accordance with the format shown on the result sheet.
11. Each game will be to 21 points with no extended play. Score sheets will be issued before each match, and will give details of handicaps and the scores at which ends are to be changed.
12. The result of the match will be on a total points basis. In the event of a tie, the result will be determined on a 'games won' basis.
13. Home or Away is decided as follows:
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| First Round | - | Upper team = Home |
| Second Round | - | Lower team = Home |
| Semi Finals | - | Upper team = Home |
14. The Committee reserves the right to adjust handicaps should it be deemed necessary.