

TWBL COMPOSITE TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Teams may be entered only by clubs competing in the TWBL and each player must be a registered member of the entering club and eligible to play in TWBL.
2. The tournament will comprise two sections; Section A and Section B. Eligibility for each section will be determined by the level at which the players normally play in each senior non-handicapped doubles event (e.g. ladies 6-player doubles, men's 6-player doubles, mixed doubles). If an event comprises an even number of divisions, then those players playing in the divisions above the mid-point will be eligible for section A (e.g. where an event has 2 divisions, those playing in the upper division are eligible for Section A, if there are 4 divisions, those playing in the top 2 divisions are eligible for Section A, if there are 6 divisions then those playing in the top 3 divisions are eligible for Section A, and so on). Players playing in the remaining divisions will be eligible for Section B. If an event comprises an odd number of divisions, the same rules will apply, but those players who play in the middle division will be eligible for either section. Any player not normally playing in any non-handicapped doubles events may still play in the section best matched to their playing level – the tournament referee will adjudicate in the event of any query as to a player's eligibility for one section or the other.
3. A player is permitted to play for more than one team from the same club in their own section of the composite tournament on just one occasion. Additionally, a player from Section B is permitted to fill in for a team in Section A from the same club if the need arises. Appeals under exceptional circumstances must be referred to the tournament referee.
4. Each team will be handicapped according to the draw in question. Handicaps may be amended for each round, to be decided by the referee.
5. Each team will consist of 3 men and 3 ladies. The players **and the team line-up** must be notified to the tournament referee at least 4 working days before a fixture to allow time for handicapping. Any subsequent, unavoidable, changes to team and/or line-up must be agreed with the tournament referee prior to the start of the match. Failure to do so may result in the match being forfeited.
6. In each round the home team is responsible for arranging the match, offering at least three dates for the fixture, one of which must be accepted by the away team. Shuttles for the fixture, which must be feathers with a cork base, should be provided by the home club.
7. Each match will consist of 9 rubbers of 2 games played to 21 points using rally point scoring with no setting allowed i.e. "sudden death" at 20-20. Each match will comprise 2 men's doubles, 2 ladies doubles and 5 mixed doubles as specified on the score sheet. Both teams to exchange their player line-ups simultaneously before the start of the match. Games will start at 0-0. The handicaps will be released once all games have been completed. The result is determined by total points won (not rubbers or games) after adjustment for team handicaps. The score sheet must be signed by both captains and returned to the referee by the home team within 48 hrs.
8. If a player is unable to complete a game then unplayed points up to 21 will be awarded to the opposition in that game and each subsequent game in which the player is also unable to compete.

9. In the event of a tie, all players will take turns to serve once into the corner box which is located beyond the doubles long service line and wide of the singles side line (one of the home players to serve first). The player may choose to serve from either the left or the right court. The greater number of services touching down (where the shuttle comes to rest is irrelevant) within the target box or on the line after all players have served will win. If this is equal, then sudden death services into the target box will take place, one player at a time, until one serves in and the other serves out.
10. The away club will contribute to the home team half the cost of staging the match, this to include shuttle use and court hire. Court costs will be as declared at the start of the season by each club on their League and Composite Cup Entry Form; reasonable shuttle use will be added to this figure.
11. The finals will be played during May at a venue/date specified by the committee, with a match fee payable to TWBL of £30 per team playing in the final. The trophies will be presented to the winning teams, to be retained for one year and returned thereafter in good condition.
12. The tournament referee's decision on all matters of dispute will be final.

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