

LEAGUE CONSTITUTION
Incorporating changes made at the 2011 AGM

1 General

- 1.1 In this constitution the words in the first column of the table below shall have the meaning set opposite to them respectively in the second column, if not inconsistent with the subject or context.

DEFINITIONS

“the League”	The North West Counties Squash League;
“the Constitution”	The Constitution of the League as set out in this document or otherwise determined from time to time in a general meeting of the League;
“the Rules”	The Rules of the League as determined from time to time in a general meeting of the League;
“Club”	A club which is a member or associate member of the League;
“Committee”	The Committee which is elected from time to time in accordance with the Constitution;
“England Squash”	England Squash & Racketball Limited (formerly The Squash Rackets Association Limited);
“Club Representative”	A person who has been duly authorized by a Club to represent it for the purposes of Rule 4.5 below at general meetings or otherwise to deal with matters relating to the League whose name has been notified from time to time by such Club to the General Secretary in writing (whether by letter or email).

2 Name and Purpose

- 2.1 The League shall be called the North West Counties Squash League and shall organise a league competition between the squash clubs of Lancashire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

3 Membership

- 3.1 Membership shall be open to all squash clubs in Lancashire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside that are affiliated to England Squash.
- 3.2 The procedure for applying for membership is as follows:
- 3.2.1 an Application must be made to the General Secretary before or at the Annual General Meeting.

- 3.2.2 the Affiliation fee as per Rule 14 must be sent with the application.
- 3.2.3 The Committee and/or Annual General Meeting will consider the application.
- 3.3 Applications made after the Annual General Meeting may be accepted at the Committee's discretion up to the 1st July for the season ahead, but in this case a late entry fee per team will be payable, the amount to be determined by the Committee. New Clubs shall normally start in the lowest division unless they make successful application to the Committee for commencement in a higher division.
- 3.4 Associate Membership shall be open to squash clubs, affiliated to England Squash that lie outside the boundaries of Lancashire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.
- 3.5 Associated Members are required to apply for membership each year at the Annual General Meeting, at which each Associated Member shall be voted on individually.
- 3.6 The Committee shall have the power, if at any time in its discretion it considers that the interests of the League require it, to suspend or terminate the membership of any Club subject to confirmation at the next General Meeting. At such General Meeting the Club must be allowed to offer an explanation of its conduct verbally or in writing and, if two-thirds of the Clubs present vote for the suspension or termination as appropriate, the membership of such Club will immediately be either suspended for such period as may be approved by the General Meeting or terminated. The voting at any such general meeting must be by ballot if not less than 5 Clubs present at that meeting so demand. The Committee may exclude from the League until such General Meeting is held any Club whose membership it has decided should be suspended or terminated.
- 3.7 Each Club must be in credit with its affiliation fees payable to England Squash before the first match of each season or the club concerned will not be allowed to take part in the League. Where a Club's affiliation fees become due during a season, the Committee shall have the power to deduct 5 points per team per match from the date on which those fees are due until they are paid.**

4 General Meetings and Other Meetings

- 4.1 An Annual General Meeting shall be held during the months of May or June in each calendar year. General Meetings may also be called at any other time by the Committee or at the request of three or more Clubs.
- 4.2 Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be sent in writing (which may be by letter and/or email) to all member clubs no later than 21 days before the meeting is due to be held together with an Agenda containing any proposals which the Committee considers appropriate or which have been sent by Clubs to the General Secretary before 21st April. If a Club is not represented at the Annual General Meeting, a fine to be fixed by the Committee may be levied.
- 4.3 Notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be sent in writing (which may be by letter and/or email) two weeks in advance of the meeting to all Clubs together with a statement of the business to be transacted.
- 4.4 Items not on the agenda sent out to Clubs before a General Meeting may be taken at the discretion of the Chairman but may not include any proposals for altering the Constitution or the Rules.
- 4.5 Each Club shall have one spokesman and one vote only at a General Meeting. Clubs not able to send a representative may submit their views and votes in writing (by letter and/or email) in advance to the General Secretary so as to reach him no later than 48 hours before the meeting is due to begin. Clubs shall not have a vote until they have played at least one season in the League.

- 4.6 The Annual General Meeting shall elect the President, Vice Presidents and the Honorary Legal Advisor.
- 4.7 Officers and Officials of the League are indemnified to a maximum of £1 m against legal liability and claims for costs and expenses arising from injury or death to participants occurring during League matches, events or activities which are under the control of the League.
- 4.8 The Annual General Meeting shall appoint a suitably qualified Auditor. The Annual Accounts of the League shall be laid before the Annual General Meeting.
- 4.9 Before the start of each season the General Secretary will send to all Clubs notice of the time, date, and place of a meeting ("Captains' Meeting") to explain to Clubs the arrangements for the coming season and to deal with any other administrative matters relating to that season. Each Club shall send at least one team captain to that meeting to ensure as far as possible that each Club is aware of such arrangements or matters. If a Club is not represented at the Captains' Meeting, a fine to be fixed by the Committee may be levied.

5 Committee

- 5.1 The Officers of the Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. They shall consist of a Chairman, Treasurer, General Secretary, Match Secretary, up to 5 ordinary members, one representative from each division or section of a division (as appropriate), and one county representative from each of Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside. In the event that not all positions on the Committee are filled at an Annual General Meeting or a vacancy occurs during the course of a season, the Committee shall have the power to co-opt members of the Committee to vacant positions. The President, Vice Presidents and Honorary Legal Advisor shall be ex-officio members. Three members shall constitute a quorum and the Chairman shall have the casting vote. The Committee may form sub-committees for specialised purposes.

6 Rules and Administration

- 6.1 The Constitution and the Rules (which shall apply to all Clubs and all those who play in the League) shall be decided by a General Meeting. Administration and interpretation of the Constitution, the Rules, and the Code of Conduct of England Squash shall be by the Committee. In order to provide reasonable continuity in the operation of the League it is intended that, if it is possible, changes in the number of teams and the rules for promotion and relegation in the higher divisions shall be decided each year for the season next but one ahead.
- 6.2 The Committee shall have the power to decide on all matters that are not specifically provided for in the Rules and to appoint sub-committees to exercise any of its powers under the Constitution and the Rules.
- 6.3 If at any time the Committee in its discretion considers that the interests of the League require it, the Committee may require any person playing in the League to cease playing for such period as the Committee considers appropriate provided that such player shall first be informed of the nature of the complaint against him or her and the time and place of a meeting of the Committee at which such player must be allowed to offer an explanation verbally or in writing. The Committee may exclude from the League until such meeting is held any player whom it has decided should cease playing. A player who wishes to appeal against a decision of the Committee under this paragraph may do so in accordance with Rule 13.3 of the Rules.
- 6.4 The General Secretary must be informed in writing (which may be by letter or email) of any changes to a Club Representative, either before or during the season, within 7 days of the change taking place.