



Competition Regulations

National League

2026-2027

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CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Provisions and regulations

1. These Regulations apply to the National League.
2. All matches in the competition must be played in accordance with the definitions and provisions of the General Competition Regulations (AWR) and these Regulations.
3. All events in a competition tie must be played in accordance with the applicable Laws of Badminton.
4. Where an article or paragraph applies exclusively to a specific division of the National League, this is indicated at the beginning of the relevant paragraph or article.
5. Articles or paragraphs for which an exemption may be granted are marked with a 'D' in the left-hand margin of the relevant paragraph or article.
6. The home club is responsible for organising the competition tie as set out in these Regulations.

Article 2: Definitions and abbreviations

For the purposes of these Regulations:

- a. AWR: General Competition Regulations (Algemeen Wedstrijdreglement).
- b. play-off match: a match played after completion of the scheduled programme and required to decide the Champion of the Netherlands, a section championship, play-offs, promotion/relegation, or allocation for the following competition season.

National Umpire: a member of Badminton Nederland holding a valid umpire licence.

- c. competition contact person (CCP): a person representing a club in all matters relating to the competition(s).

competition application: the computer application used to publish and process the competition schedule and results.

competition official: a person appointed by the home club to carry out duties for a particular competition tie.

competition hierarchy: the order of strength of the various categories/divisions/classes in a competition season for competitions to which these Regulations apply.

Competition Management: the persons to whom the CW has delegated the implementation of the National League.

competition week: a seven-day playing week, with Monday as the first day.

CW: Competition Affairs Committee (Commissie Wedstrijdzaken).

CWI: Competition Week Information.

- d. double weekend: a competition week in which two rounds have been scheduled.
- g. concurrent competitions: two different competitions organised by Badminton Nederland where the start date of one competition does not fall after the end date of the previous competition.

golden game: an event consisting of one game used to decide a tie that has ended in a draw.

- h. higher team: a team that, in the applicable competition hierarchy, has a lower team number than the team with which it is being compared.

i. substitute: a participant in a tie who is not a nominated player of the team concerned.

substitute score: a player's score determining the divisions of the National League in which that player may act as a substitute.

l. lower team: a team that, in the applicable competition hierarchy, has a higher team number than the team with which it is being compared.

n. NRB: National Badminton Ranking (Nationale Ranglijst Badminton).

o. violation: breach of a provision of the Competition Regulations.

r. referee: a member of Badminton Nederland holding a valid referee licence.

reserve week: a week to which a competition tie may be rescheduled.

circular: an email message to clubs participating in a competition other than an Official Notice.

s. umpire: the person who officiates an event.

match date: the date on which a tie has been scheduled.

round: the set of ties within one section in which each team plays once or has a bye.

playing key: a schedule showing in which rounds a team plays at home and away.

first team: the club's team with team number 1.

strength-order list: a list ranking all teams within a division by strength.

t. team: a group of players from a member club participating as a team in a particular competition and holding a specific place in that competition.

team manager: the person representing the team.

home club: the club listed first for a tie.

u. away club: the club listed second for a tie.

UR: Implementation Regulation (Uitvoeringsregeling).

v. nominated player: a player registered by the club as a nominated player for a particular team.

free week: a week to which a competition tie may be rescheduled only with the permission of Competition Management.

w. competition season: the period from 1 August up to and including 31 July.

z. Sunday-observing club: a club which, on the basis of its articles of association known to Badminton Nederland, does not normally play competition ties on Sundays.

Article 3: Digital communication

1. Clubs are required to submit all data required in connection with the competition digitally, as specified in the Implementation Regulation on Digital Communication between Badminton Nederland and clubs.

2. Team managers, competition officials, competition contact persons and match officials are required to conduct all communication under the Competition Regulations digitally.

3. All correspondence concerning the National League must be sent by the CCP to competitie@badminton.nl.

CHAPTER II ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION

Article 4: Management

1. The CW is responsible for organising the National League. Implementation of the National League is delegated to Competition Management.
2. Competition Management consists of at least one member of the CW and one member of the Badminton Nederland office.
3. For matches with nationwide television coverage, the CW is responsible for organising the match. In such cases the CW assumes the organisational responsibility of the home club. Badminton Nederland appoints a match director.
4. The Board of Badminton Nederland takes decisions concerning the competition that fall within its remit after hearing the CW.

Article 5: Competition structure

1. A competition consists of one or more divisions. A division consists of one or more sections.
2. Eredivisie

The Eredivisie consists of 8 first teams.

A full round-robin competition is played, followed by semi-finals and a final for the National Championship.

3. First Division

The First Division consists of one section of 8 first teams and one section of 8 second teams.

A full round-robin competition is played in each section.

4. Other divisions

All other divisions consist of several sections, each containing no more than 8 teams.

The Second Division consists of no more than 4 sections.

The Third Division consists of no more than 8 sections.

The Fourth Division consists of no more than 16 sections.

The Fifth and Sixth Divisions each consist of no more than 32 sections.

In the remaining divisions, the number of sections is not limited.

A full round-robin competition is played in each section, followed by National Championships for Competition Teams in each division.

Article 6: Competition hierarchy

The competition hierarchy determines the order of strength both between the divisions of the National League and between the National League and the Youth Competition.

- a. The Eredivisie through the Ninth Division are ranked hierarchically in that order.
- b. Men's Division Feather-1 is equivalent to the Fifth Division.
- c. Men's Division Feather-2 is equivalent to the Sixth and Seventh Divisions.
- d. Men's Division Nylon is equivalent to the Eighth and Ninth Divisions.
- e. The Seventh Division is equivalent to category A in the Youth Competition.
- f. The Eighth Division is equivalent to category B in the Youth Competition.

- g. The other categories in the Youth Competition are below the National League in the hierarchy.

Article 7: Allocation to sections

1. If a division consists of more than one section, all sections in that division must contain the same number of teams, or differ in size by no more than one team.
2. Competition Management allocates the teams to the sections formed in accordance with Article 5, in line with the position in the competition structure to which the teams are entitled on the basis of the previous competition and the applicable promotion-relegation regulations.
3. The Sixth through Ninth Divisions and the men's divisions of the National League also permit open entry. Teams entered through open entry are allocated after application of the promotion-relegation regulations, provided unfilled places remain available.

Article 8: Allocation of teams from one club

1. Where two or more teams from the same club are placed in the same division, they are placed in different sections as far as possible.
2. If more than one team from a club is placed in the same section, those teams must be assigned playing keys such that their final head-to-head tie takes place as early as possible in the competition.

D Article 9: Away and home matches

Each team plays two ties against every team in its section: one home tie and one away tie, one in each half of the competition.

Article 10: Events per tie

1. A tie in the Eredivisie through the Ninth Division consists of the following events:

Two men's singles

Two women's singles

Two mixed doubles

One men's doubles

One women's doubles

2. A tie in the Men's Divisions consists of the following events:

Four singles

Four doubles

Article 11: Publication of competition allocation

1. Competition Management is responsible for drawing up the competition allocation, meaning placement of teams into sections and assignment of playing keys.
2. Before 1 July, Competition Management will prepare the competition allocation and announce it by circular, including the playing key assigned to each team and identification of Sunday-observing clubs.
3. The circular will also refer to the applicable Shuttle List, stating the shuttle categories on that list that are permitted for the various divisions of the National League.

4. After establishing the competition allocation, Competition Management may still make changes as long as the first tie in the relevant section has not yet been played. In the event of a significant imbalance in sections due to withdrawals or other circumstances, Competition Management may make adjustments without consulting the teams concerned in the affected sections and will subsequently inform the clubs concerned.

Article 12: Publication of competition information

Before 1 August, Competition Management sends each club participating in the competition:

- a. a list containing the contact details (name, email address, telephone number) of the competition contact person of the participating clubs;
- b. a list of venues (name, address, telephone number) where the competition ties of the participating clubs are played;
- c. a list of the shuttle(s) used by each participating club for its competition ties;
- d. notification that the section allocations by division and the playing key assigned to each team are available online.

Article 13: Publication of the match schedule

1. Eredivisie

The match schedule by competition week (without day and time) is established by Competition Management on 1 June and circulated to the Eredivisie clubs. Based on the match schedule, clubs submit the final playing day and starting time before 1 July.

2. Other divisions

Before 1 August, Competition Management publishes the full match schedule at <https://badmintonnederland.toernooi.nl>.

Article 14: Changes to the match schedule by the CW

1. Eredivisie and First Division

After 1 June, the CW may, in the event of demonstrable emergencies (such as extreme weather conditions or fire at the playing venue) and other unforeseen circumstances (such as changes to the international tournament calendar relating to the European Championships, World Championships or Olympic Games), amend the match calendar and playing times without the consent of the clubs concerned.

2. Other divisions

After publication of the match schedule, Competition Management may still make changes. Any changes must be communicated to the clubs concerned no later than 48 hours before the start of the relevant section(s).

Article 15: Substitute score

1. The substitute score applies to ties in the Eredivisie through the Fourth Division. A player without a substitute score is not eligible to play in the Eredivisie through the Fourth Division.
2. The substitute score is equal to the highest number of points held by a player on the singles, doubles or mixed-doubles ranking of the NRB in week 27 of the calendar year. The substitute score does not change during the competition season.

3. Players included in the team-composition submission (see Article 22) who have no points on the NRB in week 27 of the calendar year are assigned a substitute score by the CW as follows:
 - a. The player's position on the BWF ranking as at 1 July is considered. The player without NRB points is compared with the next player on the BWF ranking who has NRB points. The player without NRB points receives as substitute score the number of NRB points of that comparison player plus 1.
 - b. Players who still have no substitute score after step a receive a substitute score equal to 75% of their substitute score from the previous season.
 - c. If a player still has no substitute score after step b, the CW will assign that player a notional substitute score.
 - d. If a player is registered by a club during the competition season as a nominated player or substitute but has no points on the NRB in week 27 of the calendar year, the CW will assign that player a substitute score in accordance with steps a through c.
4. The substitute scores of nominated players without NRB points are shared with the clubs concerned in the Eredivisie through the Fourth Division by circular before the first competition week. Substitute scores of players registered later are stated in the CWI.
5. Before the first competition week, a request may be submitted to change a player's substitute score. Such a request must be properly substantiated. The CW assesses the request and informs the club whether it has been approved.

CHAPTER III CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION

Article 16: Eligible players

1. A player who plays for a club in a competition tie governed by these Regulations must at that time:
 - a. be registered with Badminton Nederland as a member of that particular club and hold a valid federation number for that club. The date of registration in Badminton Nederland's online Membership Administration is decisive;
 - b. comply with the provisions of the AWR.
2. D For the Eredivisie, in addition to paragraph 1:
 - a. a nominated player of an Eredivisie team must be included in the team-composition submission referred to in Article 22. No nominated players may subsequently be added to the team;
 - b. a player who is registered as a member of Badminton Nederland by the club concerned after 31 August is not eligible to play in the Eredivisie during that competition season.
3. For the First Division, in addition to paragraph 1:
 - a. a nominated player of a First Division team must be included in the team-composition submission referred to in Article 22 or have been added to that team in accordance with Article 35, provided that the addition is received by Competition Management before the start of the second half of the First Division competition, i.e. before the start of round 8. A player

not included in the original team submission is eligible to play as a nominated player only from the start of the second half of the competition;

- b. a player who is registered as a member of Badminton Nederland by the club concerned after 31 August is eligible only for First Division ties belonging to the second half of the competition. A player who has not been registered as a member of Badminton Nederland by the club concerned before the start of the second half of the competition is not eligible for First Division ties.

Article 17: Medical examination

Players are deemed medically fit to play badminton. They are personally responsible for this.

Article 18: Change of club

D 1. If a player who has played for a particular club during a competition season does not wish to play for that club in the following season, the player must notify the current club before 1 May.

2. If paragraph 1 has not been complied with and the current club refuses permission, the new club may appeal to the CW.

3. Eredivisie and First Division

- a. Paragraph 1 does not apply to players who are nominated players of a team in the Eredivisie or First Division of the National League in the current competition season. Such a player is eligible to play for another club in the following competition season, in any competition, only if the future club has submitted a transfer form to the CW in which the player states that they wish to play for that club in the coming season. The CW confirms receipt of the transfer form to the player and future club, with a copy to the current club. The transfer is then complete. This submission must be received by the Badminton Nederland office after the last competition tie of the player's team but no later than 15 May, and may be made only once during this period.
- b. If such a submission has not been received by 15 May, the player may play for another club in the following season if the current club has granted permission by electronic document. The current club must send this permission to the CW, with a copy to the player, and it must be received by the Badminton Nederland office no later than 1 September. If permission is refused, the current club must inform the CW, with a copy to the player, before 1 September, stating the reasons. The CW will make a binding decision on the transfer before the start of the competition.
- c. By way of exception to paragraph 3a, a nominated player of a team withdrawn by the relevant club from the Eredivisie or First Division of the National League is entitled to make the submission referred to in paragraph 3a up to the date on which the club submits its player registration for the competition, as referred to in Article 22.

CHAPTER IV OBLIGATIONS OF PARTICIPATING CLUBS

Article 19: Submission of club information

- 1. Clubs participating in a competition must submit the following to Competition Management when entering the relevant competition:
 - a. the club and team information referred to in Article 12;

- b. the stated starting times must comply with the provisions on Sunday-observing clubs in the AWR;
- c. for each playing venue used by the club during the competition, the number of courts available for competition ties. If a venue does not comply with the venue requirements, an exemption must be requested from the CW during the entry period in accordance with Article 26;
- d. the brand and type of shuttle(s) to be used.

Article 20: Team naming

1. Team names must comply with the provisions laid down in:
 - a. General Regulations, Article 3, paragraph 3, subparagraphs j and k;
 - b. General Competition Regulations, Article 22.
2. A club team is designated by the name of the club for which the team plays, followed by the team number, unless paragraph 3 applies.
3. Where a club name does not contain a sponsor name, a sponsor name may be included in the designation of a team as part of the team name. Only one sponsor name may appear in a team designation. Different teams may have different sponsors.
4. The sponsor name must be placed immediately before the club name. The team number comes at the end of the team designation.
5. An application to add a sponsor name may be made throughout the year.
6. The CW assesses the application and, after approval, the sponsor name will be added to the team. If the application is rejected, the CW will inform the club and state the reason for rejection.
7. When considering requests for name linkage under paragraph 4, the refusal criteria set out in Article 3, paragraph 3, subparagraph j of the General Regulations apply.
8. Name linkage under paragraph 4 is valid for the entire competition season.
9. If name linkage under paragraph 4 is changed, a new request must be submitted to the CW. If such name linkage is terminated, notification to the CW is sufficient. Any change in team designation takes effect from the competition season of the year in which the change request or termination notice is made.

Article 21: Withdrawal of teams

1. Eredivisie and First Division

If a club wishes to withdraw a team from the National League for the following season, it must submit a reasoned request to the CW by email before the end of the entry period. The following procedure then applies:

- a. The CW confirms receipt of the withdrawal request and decides within two weeks.
- b. In making its decision, the CW considers whether special circumstances make withdrawal from the National League necessary.
- c. If the CW agrees to the withdrawal of the team, the entry fee is charged to the club. The relevant place in the National League is also forfeited by the club.

- d. If a club submits a withdrawal request to the CW after the end of the entry period, the procedure in subparagraphs a through c also applies and a fine is imposed.

2. Other divisions

If a team is withdrawn after publication of the competition on badmintonnederland.toernooi.nl, the club must email Competition Management stating the reason for withdrawal of the team concerned. The following procedure then applies:

- a. Competition Management confirms receipt of the team's withdrawal request.
 - b. The entry fee is charged to the club. If the club submits the withdrawal request after the start of the National League, a fine is also charged.
 - c. The club also forfeits the relevant place in the National League.
3. Competition Management fills a vacant place where possible on the basis of Article 67. A vacancy may be filled only if no ties have yet been played in the relevant section.

Article 22: Submission of team composition

1. A club participating in the National League must enter the nominated players for each team in the competition application. This submission must be entered in the competition application two weeks before the start of the competition.
2. A club may register each player as a nominated player for no more than one team in concurrent competitions.
3. The club must ensure that the players included in the submission, and any amendments to it, comply with Articles 16 and 23 concerning eligible players.

Article 23: Team composition

1. Eredivisie

The nominated-player submission for teams playing in the Eredivisie must consist of at least 3 men and 3 women.

2. First through Ninth Divisions

The nominated-player submission for teams playing in the First through Ninth Divisions must consist of at least 2 men and 2 women.

D 3. Men's Divisions

The nominated-player submission for teams playing in the Men's Divisions must consist of at least 4 men. At a club's request, Competition Management may grant an exemption for an individual team allowing 1 woman to be registered as a nominated player.

Article 24: Clothing

Clubs must ensure that players wear clothing during events governed by the Competition Regulations that complies with the provisions of the Implementation Regulation on Clothing and Advertising at Badminton Matches.

D Article 25: Completion of the competition

A club team is required to complete all ties in the match schedule through to the end of the competition.

D Article 26: Venue requirements

The venue must comply with the Implementation Regulation on Venue Requirements. If the venue does not comply, an exemption must be requested in the submission referred to in Article 19, specifying the points on which the venue does not meet the requirements. If an exemption is not granted for a venue, the club will be informed within two weeks after receipt of the submission.

D Article 27: Playing days and times

Eredivisie and First Division

1. Ties must be played on Saturday or Sunday, subject to paragraph 4.
2. On Saturday, a tie may not start before 12:00 and not after 19:00.
3. On Sunday, a tie may not start before 12:00 and not after 16:00.
4. In reserve weeks and where ties are rescheduled in accordance with Article 31 paragraph 1, the playing day may be chosen by mutual agreement. If such a tie is played on Saturday or Sunday, the starting times in paragraphs 2 and 3 must be observed. If such a tie is played on a weekday, the starting time must be between 19:00 and 20:00.

Second and Third Divisions

5. Ties must be played on Friday evening or at the weekend.
 - a. On Friday, the starting time is between 19:00 and 20:00; on Saturday between 10:00 and 20:00; and on Sunday between 10:00 and 15:00. Players cannot be required to start new events after 23:00 on Friday and Saturday or after 18:00 on Sunday.
 - b. A tie may not start before 10:00. At the away team's request, a tie may start later than 10:00, at a time when the away team can be present using the first available public-transport connection.

Other divisions

6. Ties may be played on weekdays or at weekends.
 - a. A weekday tie is preferably played on 2 courts. The starting time of a weekday tie is between 19:00 and 20:00. Players cannot be required to start new events after 23:00.
 - b. On Saturday, the starting time is between 09:00 and 20:00; on Sunday between 09:00 and 15:00. Players cannot be required to start new events after 23:00 on Saturday or after 18:00 on Sunday. At the away team's request, a tie may start later than 09:00, at a time when the away team can be present using the first available public-transport connection.

Article 28: Club officials

1. Each club participating in the National League appoints a competition contact person (CCP).
 - a. The CCP maintains contact with the CW, Competition Management for the National League, and other clubs.
 - b. Teams communicate with the CW and Competition Management for the National League through the CCP.
2. For competition ties for which a referee has been appointed, the home club must appoint a competition official. On behalf of the home club, the competition official is responsible for all obligations that the home club has in relation to the competition tie. The competition official maintains contact with the referee on behalf of the home club.

3. For competition ties at which National Umpires have been appointed, the home club must provide enough persons to act as line judges. The referee or equivalent official is responsible for appointing the line judges. If no National Umpires have been appointed, the home club must ensure that sufficient umpires are present.

Article 29: Submissions and information

Clubs are required to provide information or submissions connected with the organisation of the competition in the manner specified by Competition Management or the CW.

CHAPTER V DURING THE COMPETITION

For the Eredivisie and First Division, clubs and teams must also comply with the provisions of Chapter VI.

D Article 30: Match date

1. a. A tie must be played in full on the date stated in the match schedule, or on the amended date in accordance with Article 14 or Article 31.
b. If a tie is played on a date other than the scheduled date without Competition Management's permission, the CW may declare the tie invalid and order that it be replayed.
2. A tie is deemed to have been played on the match date if the smallest possible majority of the events counting towards the result of the tie have been played.

Article 31: Change of match date at a club's request

1. Eredivisie and First Division

After 1 June, requests to change a match date or exchange home and away ties are possible only if the request is submitted at least 4 weeks before the original match day, is agreed by both clubs concerned, and is approved by the CW.

2. Other divisions

- a. Ties may be rescheduled by mutual agreement if:
 - i. it concerns an exchange of home and away ties; or
 - ii. the tie is moved within the relevant half of the competition to a competition week or reserve week.
 - b. Competition Management must be informed of all rescheduling under subparagraph a, including the mutually agreed match date, no later than 24 hours before the original match date.
 - c. Permission from Competition Management is required to reschedule a tie to a free week, to another half of the competition and/or where the deadline in subparagraph b is not met.
3. If no mutual agreement to reschedule is reached, the tie must be played on the date set by the CW. An exception may be made in consultation with and after approval by Competition Management if:
 - a. for demonstrable reasons, the sports hall suddenly becomes unavailable on the original or newly scheduled date;
 - b. player safety cannot be guaranteed because of extreme weather conditions;
 - c. an unforeseen circumstance of such a nature occurs that rescheduling is necessary.

Article 32: Starting time

1. A tie must start at the scheduled starting time.
2. Ties that, for whatever reason, have not started 45 minutes after the scheduled starting time need no longer be played that day.

Article 33: Courts

1. The home club must ensure that the court(s) are ready at least fifteen minutes before the scheduled starting time, including cleaning of the court(s), and that the away team has timely access to the venue. Specific provisions apply to the Eredivisie (Article 52) and First Division (Article 53).
2. The home club determines on which court(s) the tie is played.
3. If only one court is available for a tie, play must continue without unnecessary interruption. A player is always entitled to a fifteen-minute rest after an event, as described in Article 42.

Article 34: Shuttles

1. All events in a competition tie must be played with shuttles of one brand and type listed on the List of Approved Shuttles. The home club must ensure that a sufficient quantity is available.
2. In the Eredivisie and First Division, shuttles from at least category A must be used.
3. In the Second through Fourth Divisions, shuttles from at least category B must be used.
4. In the Fifth through Seventh Divisions and Men's Divisions Feather-1 and Feather-2, shuttles from at least category C must be used.
5. In the Eighth and Ninth Divisions and Men's Division Nylon, category D shuttles must be used.

Article 35: Amended registration of nominated players

1. A club may register a player who is not a nominated player, or is a nominated player of a lower team, as a nominated player of a higher team, stating the competition week from which the registration is to take effect. This provision does not apply to teams in the Eredivisie and First Division (see Article 16 paragraphs 2 and 3).
2. A player may be registered as a nominated player for the team immediately below the team of the player's initial nomination if the player has not participated in a competition tie for at least 7 consecutive rounds. This does not apply to a nominated player of an Eredivisie team after the start of the second half of the competition (see Article 16 paragraph 2).
3. A registration under paragraph 1 or 2 must be received by Competition Management no later than 24 hours before the start of the relevant competition tie.
4. Nominated players may no longer be added to a team that has 4 or fewer competition ties remaining.

Article 36: Playing for multiple clubs or teams

1. In one competition season, a player may not play for more than one club in the National League and concurrent competitions, even if that club has withdrawn from one of those competitions.
2. A nominated player of a team in the First Division or lower may play for another team during the competition, provided the substitute-player rules are met.

Article 37: Substitute-player rules

1. The competition hierarchy in Article 6 applies to substitute appearances.
 - a. A player may substitute only at the same level or a higher level.
 - b. A player may not substitute in another team playing in the same section as the team for which the player is nominated.
 - c. In the Eredivisie and First Division there is no limit on the number of substitute appearances.
 - d. In the other divisions, a player may not substitute for another team more often than half the number of ties to be played by the team for which the player is nominated.
 - e. In the Men's Divisions, one woman may substitute for an absent woman, or for a man provided no other woman is included in the team line-up.
 - f. All events played by a substitute who does not comply with this Article are declared lost by the maximum score.
 - g. If a tie is rescheduled, it is deemed to have been played in the competition week in which it was actually played.
2. Additional provisions for the Eredivisie through the Fourth Division
 - a. In a competition season, a nominated player may in no more than 4 competition weeks both play for the player's own team and substitute for another team.
 - b. In the final 4 rounds of a section, a nominated player may not play for the team for which the player is nominated if, before a tie, the player has made more substitute appearances than appearances for the player's own team.
 - c. The substitute scores determined under Article 15 apply separately to men and women:
 - i. If all nominated players participate, substitutes must have a lower substitute score than the nominated player with the lowest substitute score.
 - ii. If one nominated player does not participate, the highest-ranked substitute must have a lower substitute score than the absent nominated player, and any additional substitutes must have a lower substitute score than the nominated player with the lowest substitute score.
 - iii. If several nominated players do not participate, the highest-ranked substitute must have a lower substitute score than the absent nominated player with the highest substitute score; the second-highest-ranked substitute must have a lower substitute score than the absent nominated player with the second-highest substitute score, and so on; any additional substitutes must have a lower substitute score than the nominated player with the lowest substitute score.

Article 38: Playing for different teams in one competition week

1. A player may not play for two different teams in one competition week, unless paragraph 2 applies.
2. In one competition week, a player may substitute once for a team for which one round is scheduled in that week; in addition, the player may also play for the team for which the player is nominated.

3. If a player substitutes for a team for which a double weekend is scheduled in the relevant competition week, the player may also substitute in the other scheduled tie of that team in that competition week.
4. If a scheduled tie is moved to another date, the new date applies for determining whether the double-weekend provision applies.
5. A player may play in multiple ties for the player's club only when the relevant ties are not played simultaneously, meaning that the scheduled starting time of a subsequent tie may not be before the finishing time of the preceding tie; the finishing time stated on the match form is decisive.
6. If a player plays for more teams within one competition week than permitted under this Article, the chronological order of the ties in that week determines from which tie onwards the substitute's events are declared lost by the maximum score.

Article 39: Playing in different events in one tie

1. In the Eredivisie through the Ninth Division, a player may play in different events in one tie, provided the events are not of the same type.
2. In the Men's Divisions, a player may play in one singles event and no more than two doubles events. A second doubles event must be played with a different partner from the first.
3. In Eredivisie ties, a player may play a maximum of two events per tie.

Article 40: Eredivisie ranking list

1. In the Eredivisie, the team line-up must be based on the ranking list. Separate ranking lists are maintained for men's singles, women's singles and mixed doubles.
2. The singles ranking list contains no more than 12 players ranked by strength. Only those players are eligible to play singles in an Eredivisie tie.
3. The mixed-doubles ranking list contains no more than 24 players ranked by strength; the numbers of men and women on the list may differ. Only those players are eligible to play mixed doubles in an Eredivisie tie.
4. For mixed doubles, the rankings of the two players in each pair are added together. The pair with the highest combined ranking must be fielded as the first mixed doubles pair; the other pair plays the second mixed doubles. If both pairs have the same combined ranking, the ranking of the highest-ranked individual player determines the order of the mixed-doubles pairs.
5. The CW establishes the ranking lists for each Eredivisie club using the following procedure:
 - a. Each Eredivisie club draws up draft ranking lists for its own players separately for men's singles, women's singles and mixed doubles and sends them, with an explanation if desired, to the CW no later than 14 August.
 - b. After an Eredivisie club has submitted its own draft ranking lists, it receives the draft ranking lists of the other Eredivisie clubs from the CW.
 - c. Each Eredivisie club assesses the draft ranking lists of the other Eredivisie clubs and sends its assessment to the CW no later than 21 August.
 - d. The CW returns the assessments in anonymised form to the Eredivisie clubs no later than 24 August.

- e. Each Eredivisie club establishes the final order of strength of its own players separately for men's singles, women's singles and mixed doubles and sends it, with an explanation if desired, to the CW no later than 31 August.
 - f. The CW prepares a report on any differences between the final ranking lists and the assessments of the draft ranking lists. Where the Eredivisie clubs have not reached mutual agreement, the CW determines the ranking definitively. The report and the established ranking lists are announced to the Eredivisie clubs by circular no later than 7 September.
6. The ranking lists remain fixed for all competition weeks, the play-offs, the Eredivisie final and any promotion/relegation ties. No players may be added to a ranking list after 31 August.

Article 41: Exchange of line-ups and completion of the match form

1. Before the start of the tie, the team managers of both teams exchange the line-up for all events. If a referee has been appointed, the exchange takes place via the referee.
2. Before the start of the tie, the home club completes the line-up for all events on the match form in full; for each event, the requested details for each player must be entered as stated in the competition application.
3. If a player and/or club cannot demonstrate that the player is eligible, a statement signed by the player and team manager must be drawn up stating that the player is eligible. If identification has been possible by presentation of a valid identity document, this must be recorded in the statement.
4. The home club is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the information on the match form. The away team is jointly responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the information on the match form. This provision does not apply where the match is registered digitally by a National Umpire or referee.

Article 42: Order of events and rest period

1. The events in a tie are played in the order shown on the match form, unless a different order is laid down in additional match provisions or agreed mutually.
2. A tie in the Eredivisie through the Ninth Division must be played in the following order:
Men's doubles
Women's doubles
1st men's singles
1st women's singles
2nd men's singles
2nd women's singles
1st mixed doubles
2nd mixed doubles
3. For the Eredivisie and First Division, in addition to paragraph 2, the referee may set a different order for the singles and mixed doubles, either on the referee's own initiative or at the request of one or both teams. This is permitted only if it can reasonably be assumed to shorten the duration of the tie. The referee must notify both team managers no later than fifteen minutes before the relevant event.
4. A tie in the Men's Divisions must be played in the following order:

1st men's doubles

2nd men's doubles

1st men's singles

2nd men's singles

3rd men's singles

4th men's singles

3rd men's doubles

4th men's doubles

5. A player is entitled to a fifteen-minute rest period after an event.

Article 43: Change of line-up

1. In the event of an accident or illness after the start of the tie, the line-up referred to in Article 41 may be changed. In events still to be played, the unavailable player may be replaced by another player on the match form, subject to all provisions concerning eligible players. A substitute may also be called in, subject to Articles 37 through 39, provided the substitute can be at the venue within 15 minutes.
2. If a player is replaced under paragraph 1, the positions of the other players on the match form may not be changed.

Article 44: Match form after the tie

1. After the tie, the match form must be signed by the team managers of both teams and by any referee. This provision does not apply where the tie is registered digitally by a National Umpire or referee.
2. If the home team is not present, the competition contact person of the away club must report this to Competition Management.
3. A digital or other copy of the match form, including any notes concerning the initiation of proceedings for violations, must be provided to the team manager of the away team. The original match form and the copy must be retained by the home club and away club respectively until the end of the competition season. This provision does not apply where the tie is registered digitally by an umpire or referee.
4. The home club must enter and submit the form through the competition application before the deadline stated below. This provision does not apply where the tie is registered digitally by an umpire or referee.
5. Forms for ties played at the weekend must be submitted no later than 20:30 on the Sunday evening after the tie. Forms for ties played on weekdays must be submitted no later than 24 hours after the end of the tie.
6. During the following week, the away club checks that the match form has been entered correctly so that any errors can be acted upon as quickly as possible. If the entered match form is incorrect, an electronic copy of the original match form must be sent to competitie@badminton.nl and Competition Management will correct the match form in the competition application where necessary.

7. If there may have been a violation, the CW and Competition Management may request an electronic copy of the original match form from both the home and away club until the end of the competition season.

Article 45: Eligibility for play-off matches

To participate in a team's play-off matches, a player must have played in at least four competition ties during the relevant competition season for that team or a lower team of the club. For play-off matches in and between the Eredivisie and First Division, the provisions on eligible players in Article 16 also apply.

Article 46: Incomplete ties

1. A team is required to appear with enough players to play all events of a tie with eligible players. Otherwise, the team is deemed to have appeared incomplete.
2. An event is deemed to have taken place if:
 - a. all players are eligible for the event; and
 - b. the event has actually been played in full or a result has been determined under the Regulations.
3. If a team appears incomplete, the lowest-ranked events are declared lost by the maximum score by the incomplete team. In the Eredivisie through the Ninth Division these are one doubles event, one second singles event and the second mixed doubles. In the Men's Divisions these are the fourth singles, third doubles and fourth doubles.
 - a. If, however, the players of both teams fail to appear for an event, that event is deemed not to have taken place and Article 48 applies.
 - b. If, following an accident or illness after the start of the tie and after any application of Article 43, an event cannot be played, that event is lost by the maximum score by the team unable to play.
 - c. If, however, the players of both teams are unable to play an event for this reason, the event is deemed not to have taken place and Article 47 applies.
 - d. If, after an event has started, a team concedes the event, the result is determined as though the other team had scored, from the moment of concession, the points required to win the event.
 - e. In the Eredivisie and First Division, if a player concedes an event after the start of the tie, that player may not play any further National League events on the same day.
4. If, for any reason, fewer than the smallest possible majority of the events can be played, the tie is deemed not to have taken place and is handled in accordance with Article 48.

Article 47: Continuation of incomplete ties

1. If not all events in a tie have taken place on the scheduled match date, Competition Management must be informed, stating the reason. The CW decides within 14 days whether the tie is to be continued.
2. Where continuation is permitted, the line-up referred to in Article 41 is maintained, taking Article 43 into account.
3. If an event must be continued, play resumes at the score at which the event was interrupted.

D Article 48: Matches not played

1. If a tie does NOT take place on the scheduled day, the home club must record this on the match form, stating the reason(s), within 2 days after the scheduled starting time.
2. The CW decides within 2 weeks whether the tie is to be played at a later date. The tie will in any event be rescheduled if playing it could change positions in the standings after completion of the competition where those positions have consequences for allocation in the following competition season, such as championship, promotion or relegation.

Article 49: Costs of rescheduled matches

1. The costs connected with playing, replaying or completing a tie at a later date are borne by the club responsible, as determined by the CW.
2. The costs of replayed ties that were interrupted or not played for a valid reason, for example natural or weather conditions, may not be recovered from the opposing club, as determined by the CW.

CHAPTER VI ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR THE EREDIVISIE AND FIRST DIVISION

Article 50: Start of tie and events

1. The home club must make a sufficient quantity of shuttles of the same brand and type (see the Implementation Regulation on Approved Shuttles) available to the referee thirty minutes before the start of the tie.
2. No later than thirty minutes before the official starting time of the tie, the team manager must hand the team's line-up and the corresponding player identification documents to the referee.
 - a. For the Eredivisie, the line-up presentation marks the start of the tie; the line-up presentation begins 10 minutes before the official starting time. All players listed on the match form must take part in the line-up presentation.
 - b. For the First Division, all players must be in the vicinity of the competition courts at the official starting time so that the referee can verify that all selected players are actually present.
3. Within five minutes after completion of an event, the next event must have started on the same court, subject to the prescribed order of events. If a break is permitted under Article 42 paragraph 5, the next event must have started within 20 minutes after completion of the preceding event.
4. Warming up and, where applicable, testing shuttles must take place on a warm-up court. If no such court is available, this may take place on the competition court, provided that the first serve of the event is struck within five or twenty minutes respectively after completion of the preceding event.

Article 51: Advertising

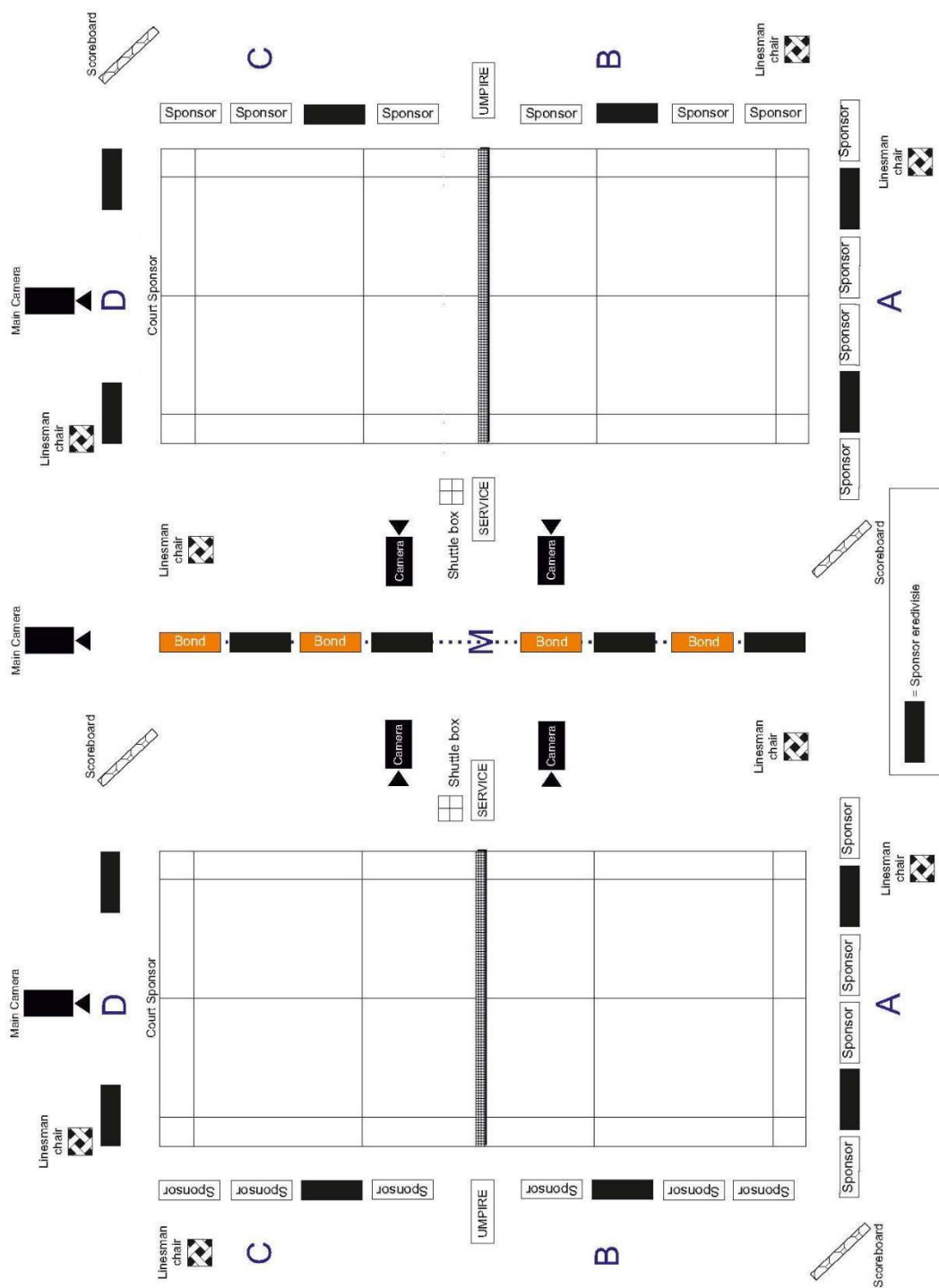
1. Advertising boards at National League matches, including play-off matches and play-offs, must:
 - a. be 150 centimetres long and 70 centimetres high;
 - b. comply with the BWF rules, see General Competition Regulations, Article 18.

2. The home club must allow the visiting club to place eight advertising boards (four per court, i.e. one per sideline/baseline), subject to the following:
 - a. the home club may refuse advertising boards that compete with its own main, equipment or shirt sponsor;
 - b. the home club determines the position of the advertising boards;
 - c. the visiting club must notify the home club no later than 48 hours before the start of the match of the number, wording and business sector of the advertising boards, subject to the possibility of nationwide television coverage;
 - d. for nationwide television broadcasts, advertising boards may not display a telephone number, but may display an email address.
3. The home club must display at every home match the advertising material arising from the agreement concluded with a sponsor of the Eredivisie, including but not limited to advertising boards, at the designated location(s), unless it can be demonstrated that the venue owner's rental conditions prohibit this.

4. Match with nationwide television coverage

For a match with nationwide television coverage, the right described in paragraph 2 for both the visiting and home club to place advertising boards lapses.

- a. In that case, the commercial rights belong to Badminton Nederland. The clubs participating in the match are given the right to place at least one advertising board per line. Such a board may be placed on the so-called A, B or C line (see the diagram following this Article). Placement of one or more boards of a participating club on the A, B and C lines is charged at market rates. Clubs participating in a play-off match must indicate no later than 10 days before the match that they wish to purchase one or more of these positions.
- b. Badminton Nederland is entitled to fill the remaining space along the A, B and C lines with advertising boards at market rates. One or more advertising boards of the Eredivisie sponsor are placed free of charge (see diagram following this Article).
- c. If Badminton Nederland does not fill all advertising-board space as described above, participating clubs may purchase additional positions on the A, B or C lines.
- d. The organising club and the Eredivisie sponsor are each entitled to place two advertising boards on the D line free of charge (see diagram following this Article).
- e. If not all available positions on the A, B, C and D lines are filled under the preceding provisions, Badminton Nederland may fill the open positions free of charge with boards bearing the Badminton Nederland logo.
- f. The M line (see diagram following this Article) is filled alternately with advertising boards of the Eredivisie title sponsor and boards bearing the Badminton Nederland logo.
- g. On the advice of the Eredivisie sponsor, Badminton Nederland may refuse advertising boards containing messages that compete with the sponsor's products or services.



Court advertising positions (source diagram, page 29)

Article 52: Specific provisions for the Eredivisie

Organisation of the tie

1. The home club appoints a competition official to organise the tie. The competition official also maintains contact with the referee. The referee enters the line-ups and results in the competition application.

Playing-hall set-up

2. The home club must ensure that:
 - a. at least two courts are ready for play and available to the players thirty minutes before the official starting time of the Eredivisie tie;
 - b. preferably no other matches are played in the hall during the Eredivisie tie; if this is not feasible, the Eredivisie tie must be played in a separated part of the sports hall, with no matches on adjacent courts where possible.
3. Each court must have:
 - a. one umpire chair, in accordance with the Implementation Regulation on Venue Requirements;
 - b. two line-judge chairs;
 - c. two mops;
 - d. one scoring system;
 - e. four clothing baskets;
 - f. one shuttle basket;
 - g. four coaching chairs.
4. In consultation with the referee, coaching chairs may be positioned somewhere other than the designated location.
5. A table and two chairs for match officials must be placed close to the courts. A laptop or tablet with an internet connection must be placed on the table so that the referee can enter line-ups and results in the competition application.
6. The sports hall must contain:
 - a. a room equipped for doping controls and available to the doping-control officer;
 - b. a treatment room with a massage table available to the teams.
7. Each club must provide a livestream of its home matches. The livestream link must be communicated to Badminton Nederland no later than the Wednesday before the match.
8. For matches with nationwide television coverage, Badminton Nederland will arrange the court layout.

Officials to be provided

9. For each match, the CW appoints:
 - a. one referee;
 - b. two National Umpires.
10. The home club provides a pool of at least four experienced line judges aged at least 16. For the Eredivisie final and promotion/relegation matches, Badminton Nederland appoints the line judges.

11. The home club provides a paramedical attendant with at least physiotherapist-level qualifications. In the event of an emergency involving a player, this paramedical attendant contacts the player's personal support person.

PR and promotion

12. Before the start of the competition, participating clubs must prepare a press release including, among other things:
 - a. the team's match schedule;
 - b. a general preview of the competition;
 - c. detailed information about the players, trainer and coach.
13. The press release must be received digitally by the Badminton Nederland office no later than two weeks before the start of the competition for national distribution and publication on Badminton Nederland's website. Participating clubs are responsible for local and regional distribution themselves.
14. Two weeks before the start of the competition, clubs must provide the CW with the names of players who can reasonably be expected to be fielded in the team, including reserves. The CW ensures that uniform name boards are produced and sent to the clubs in good time. If a player is added during the season, the club must notify the CW of the name as soon as possible.
15. It is recommended that, before the start of a match, the home club provide spectators with an information bulletin including, among other things:
 - a. the current Eredivisie standings;
 - b. information about players and support staff of both teams;
 - c. names of appointed match officials;
 - d. general information about the sponsors of both clubs.
16. Before the start of the match, the visiting team must hand the name boards of all players in its team line-up to the competition official of the home club.
17. It is recommended that the home club publish line-ups, results and interim scores on a centrally positioned board.
18. Ten minutes before the official starting time, the players, managers, coaches, physiotherapists and match officials must be introduced to the public by an announcer. In exceptional cases, after consultation with the team managers, the referee may decide not to hold the introductions and must record this in the referee report.
19. Preferably, during the match the announcer keeps the public informed of the result of completed events, announces the next event and players, and reports interim scores from other matches.
20. For each event, the home club must ensure that the players participating are indicated at the relevant court.
21. Immediately after a match, the home club must report the result to Teletekst (Infostrada). Infostrada contact: telephone 0800-7378587 (free of charge).

Prize money

22. The Board of Badminton Nederland determines the prize money before 1 August. The final amount is published in the Official Notices.

The prize money is distributed among Eredivisie clubs as follows:

- a. Champion: 30%
- b. Losing finalist: 17.5%
- c. 3rd place in final ranking: 15%
- d. 4th place in final ranking: 12.5%
- e. 5th place in final ranking: 10%
- f. 6th place in final ranking: 10%
- g. 7th place in final ranking: 5%
- h. 8th place in final ranking: 0%

Article 53: Specific provisions for the First Division

Organisation of the tie

1. The home club appoints a competition official, who may be the captain of the home team; the competition official also maintains contact with the referee.

Playing-hall set-up

2. The home club must ensure that at least two courts are ready for play and available to the players thirty minutes before the official starting time of the First Division tie.
3. Each court must have:
 - a. one umpire chair, in accordance with the Implementation Regulation on Venue Requirements;
 - b. two line-judge chairs;
 - c. two mops;
 - d. one scoring system;
 - e. four clothing baskets;
 - f. one shuttle basket;
 - g. at least two, but preferably four, coaching chairs.
4. In consultation with the referee, coaching chairs may be positioned somewhere other than the designated location.
5. A table and two chairs for match officials must be placed close to the courts. The match officials must have access to a free internet connection during the match.
6. The sports hall must contain a room equipped for doping controls and available to the doping-control officer.

Officials to be provided

7. The CW appoints two National Umpires for each match, one of whom also acts as referee.
8. The home club must provide two line judges for each event.

Article 54: Violations and administrative defaults

1. Immediately after the match, the referee has the team managers of both teams sign the referee report as having seen it.
2. Violations of the additional provisions in this Chapter are handled in accordance with the Competition Regulations and the Disciplinary Regulations.

3. Failure to comply with, among other things, the following obligations is regarded as an administrative default as referred to in Chapter XII Article 40 of the Disciplinary Regulations:
- Article 52 paragraph 8 (distribution of information 2 weeks before the start of the competition);
 - Article 52 paragraph 9 (submission of player names 2 weeks before the start of the competition);
 - Article 52 paragraph 15 (reporting the result to Teletekst).

CHAPTER VII RESULTS AND CHAMPIONSHIP

Article 55: Awarding match points

The number of match points awarded for a tie equals the number of events won in that tie.

Article 56: Drawing up the standings

- Standings are drawn up for each section comprising the teams assigned to that section; teams excluded from further participation in the competition are not included.
- First place in the standings is occupied by the team that has won all ties in the section; the remaining teams take the other places according to paragraph 3.
- If no team in a section has won all its ties, the standings for all teams are drawn up on the basis of the number of match points obtained.
- If two or more teams have the same number of match points, the following criteria apply in order:

Eredivisie

- the number of match points in the head-to-head ties between the tied teams;
- the game difference in the head-to-head ties between the tied teams;
- the point difference in the head-to-head tie(s) between the tied teams;
- drawing of lots.

Other divisions

- the number of match points in the head-to-head ties between the tied teams;
- the game difference in the head-to-head ties between the tied teams;
- if two or more teams are still tied and the position determines the championship, promotion or relegation, one or more play-off matches are played between the tied teams.

Article 57: Exclusion of teams

If a team is excluded from further participation during a competition, all ties already played by that team are deemed not to have been played. The club concerned forfeits the team's place in the competition structure.

Article 58: Play-off matches

1. A club is required to participate in play-off matches.
2. In a play-off match, the tie is won by the team that wins more than half of the events.
 - If the number of events won is equal, the following criteria apply in order: highest number of games won, point difference.

- b. If a pool system is used, meaning a system in which a number of clubs play all relevant teams once or more, the following criteria apply in order: match points, game difference, point difference.
3. Chapter VIII determines how play-off matches between divisions are played.
4. Any costs of play-off matches are borne by Badminton Nederland, unless a best-of-two series is used, consisting of a home and away match.

Article 59: Champions by division

1. Eredivisie

After the competition, the teams ranked 1 through 4 in the Eredivisie play semi-finals. Number 1 plays number 4 and number 2 plays number 3. The lower-ranked team plays at home first.

- a. A semi-final consists of a two-match series. A win awards the winning team 2 match points. A draw awards each team 1 match point. As soon as one team has won 5 events, the match is stopped. If each team has won one match, or both matches have ended in a draw, the series is decided by a golden game.
 - b. The semi-final winners play the Eredivisie final. The Eredivisie final is one match at a neutral venue, with a golden game if required.
2. The final Eredivisie ranking is determined as follows:
 - a. number 1: winner of the Eredivisie final;
 - b. number 2: loser of the Eredivisie final;
 - c. number 3: the semi-final loser that finished highest in the Eredivisie standings;
 - d. number 4: the semi-final loser that finished lowest in the Eredivisie standings;
 - e. numbers 5 through 8: numbers 5 through 8 in the Eredivisie standings.

3. Other divisions

The section champion is the team that finishes first in the standings drawn up under Article 56 after completion of the competition.

Article 60: Champion of the Netherlands

1. The Champion of the Netherlands is the Eredivisie champion in the National League, i.e. the winner of the Eredivisie final.
2. The Champion of the Netherlands receives a challenge trophy and a permanent commemorative trophy.
3. Through Badminton Nederland, the Champion of the Netherlands may enter the European Club Team Championships in the following season.

Article 61: National Championships for Competition Teams

1. No later than the start of the second half of the competition, the CW announces for which divisions National Championships for Competition Teams will be organised in the relevant competition season. All section champions in the relevant division participate.
2. Champions as referred to in Article 59 paragraph 3 are required to participate in the National Championships for Competition Teams (NKC).

3. Within 1 week after confirmation of the section championship, a club may apply to the CW for exemption from the obligation to participate in the NKC. The CW decides within 2 weeks after receipt of the application.

Article 62: Unfinished competition

1. If, due to an interruption during the competition or early termination of the competition, not all rounds can be played, the Board of Badminton Nederland will take a decision after hearing the CW.
2. The order of teams in the final standings is determined by:
 - a. the team that has won all ties played is champion;
 - b. where positions are equal, the quotient of the total number of match points divided by the number of competition ties played;
 - c. where the quotient is equal, the percentage of games won;
 - d. otherwise, drawing of lots.
3. In unforeseen circumstances, the Board of Badminton Nederland may decide to declare the season void and not apply promotion/relegation.

CHAPTER VIII PROMOTION-RELEGATION REGULATIONS

Article 63: General provisions on promotion and relegation

1. Eligible players

Players participating in promotion/relegation matches or in the Eredivisie final must comply with Article 45 concerning eligibility for play-off matches. If this requirement cannot be met, an application may be submitted to the CW for permission to play.

2. Best-of-two series

- a. A promotion/relegation contest is always played as a best-of-two series.
- b. A best-of-two series consists of one home and one away match. The higher-ranked team plays away first.
- c. In both matches of the best-of-two series, the order of events is in accordance with Article 42 paragraph 2, except that the first mixed doubles must be played between the first women's singles and the second men's singles.
- d. In a best-of-two series, a team receives 2 match points for a win; if the match ends 4-4, each team receives 1 match point.
- e. A match may be stopped as soon as one team has won 5 events, or has obtained 3 or 4 match points over the two matches; the latter can occur only during the second match.
- f. The winner of the series is the team with the most match points. If both teams have obtained 2 match points, the winner of the series is decided by a golden game at the end of the second match, in accordance with paragraph 3.

3. Golden game

The golden game is an event consisting of one game. The event category, from the 5 possible categories, is determined as follows:

- a. before each golden game, the referee conducts a toss between the teams;

- b. the loser of the toss eliminates one of the 5 event categories;
- c. the winner of the toss eliminates one of the 4 remaining event categories;
- d. the loser of the toss eliminates one of the 3 remaining event categories;
- e. the winner of the toss eliminates one of the 2 remaining event categories;
- f. the golden game is played in the event category that remains.

For the golden game, teams are free to choose the player(s) for the relevant event category, provided those players are included in the team's line-up for the match.

4. Horizontal comparison

A horizontal comparison between teams in the same division is used to determine the strength order of the teams.

The order of the teams is determined by:

- a. the position in the section standings (first all number 1 teams, then all number 2 teams, etc.);
- b. for equal positions, the quotient of the total number of match points divided by the number of competition ties played;
- c. if the quotient is equal, the percentage of games won;
- d. otherwise, drawing of lots.

5. First team after horizontal comparison

The first team is team 1 of a club, unless a lower-numbered-status team of the club has finished higher in the same division. This is determined through the horizontal comparison.

Article 64: Promotion and relegation between the Eredivisie and First Division

1. The following limits apply:

- a. only one team per club may play in the Eredivisie, namely the first team;
- b. in First Division section 1 for first teams, only one team per club may play, namely the first team;
- c. in First Division section 2 for second teams, only one team per club may play, namely the club's second team.

2. The team finishing 8th in the Eredivisie in the current season is relegated to First Division section 1 for the following season.

3. The champion of First Division section 1 plays a promotion match against the champion of First Division section 2 if, in the current season, the first team of the section 2 champion did not play in the Eredivisie.

4. If paragraph 3 does not apply, the champion of First Division section 1 in the current season is promoted to the Eredivisie for the following season.

5. During a promotion/relegation match between teams from the Eredivisie and First Division, the following Articles apply to both matches in the best-of-two series:

Article 39;

Article 40 paragraphs 1, 4 and 6;

Article 50 paragraph 3;

Article 52 paragraph 1, paragraph 2 subparagraphs a through f, paragraphs 3, 5, 6, 7 and 13.

Article 65: Promotion and relegation between the First and Second Divisions

1. Teams ranked 7th and 8th in the First Division
 - a. The first teams finishing 7th and 8th in First Division section 1 are relegated to the Second Division or play promotion/relegation matches between the First and Second Divisions.
 - b. The second teams finishing 7th and 8th in First Division section 2 are relegated to the Second Division or play promotion/relegation matches between the First and Second Divisions.
2. If a club's second team plays in First Division section 2 without falling under paragraph 1b, while paragraph 1a applies to its first team, the second team is transferred to First Division section 1.
3. Vacant places in the First Division
 - a. If paragraph 2 does not apply, there are two vacant places in First Division section 1 and two vacant places in First Division section 2.
 - b. If paragraph 2 applies to one team, there is one vacant place in First Division section 1 and three vacant places in First Division section 2.
 - c. If paragraph 2 applies to two teams, there are no vacant places in First Division section 1 and four vacant places in First Division section 2.
4. First-team champions in the Second Division
 - a. First-team champions in the Second Division are promoted to First Division section 1 if the number of vacant places in First Division section 1 is equal to or greater than the number of first-team champions in the Second Division.
 - b. If there are more first-team champions in the Second Division than vacant places in First Division section 1, promotion matches are played between the first-team champions in the Second Division as set out in the table below.
 - c. If there are fewer first-team champions in the Second Division than vacant places in First Division section 1, the highest-ranked first team after the champions in the Second Division, and where applicable the second-best first team, plays promotion/relegation matches as set out in the table below.
5. Non-first-team champions in the Second Division
 - a. Non-first-team champions in the Second Division are promoted to First Division section 2 if the number of vacant places in First Division section 2 is equal to or greater than the number of non-first-team champions in the Second Division.
 - b. If there are more non-first-team champions in the Second Division than vacant places in First Division section 2, promotion matches are played between the non-first-team champions in the Second Division as set out in the table below.
 - c. If there are fewer non-first-team champions in the Second Division than vacant places in First Division section 2, the highest-ranked non-first team after the champions in the Second Division, and where applicable the second-best non-first team, plays promotion/relegation matches as set out in the table below.
 - d. If there are four vacant places in First Division section 2, a situation not set out in the table, the non-first-team champions in the Second Division are promoted to First Division section 2.
6. If there are four vacant places in First Division section 2 but fewer than four non-first-team champions in the Second Division, the best first-team champion plays a promotion/relegation

match against the lowest-ranked team transferred from First Division section 2 to First Division section 1 as described in paragraph 3.

Promotion table - First Division section 1 / First Division section 2

No first-team champions and four non-first-team champions in the Second Division:

- Section 1: Promotion/relegation match between the best first team in the Second Division and number 8 of First Division section 1. If there are two vacant places, also a promotion/relegation match between the second-best first team in the Second Division and number 7 of First Division section 1.
- Section 2: Promotion match between the highest- and fourth-ranked non-first teams, and between the second- and third-ranked non-first teams in the Second Division. If there are three vacant places, the two best non-first teams in the Second Division are promoted and a promotion match is played between the third- and fourth-ranked non-first teams in the Second Division.

One first-team champion and three non-first-team champions in the Second Division:

- Section 1: The first-team champion in the Second Division is promoted. If there are two vacant places, also a promotion/relegation match between the second-best first team in the Second Division and number 7 of First Division section 1.
- Section 2: The highest-ranked non-first team in the Second Division is promoted and a promotion match is played between the second- and third-ranked non-first teams in the Second Division. If there are three vacant places, all three non-first-team champions in the Second Division are promoted.

Two first-team champions and two non-first-team champions in the Second Division:

- Section 1: If there is one vacant place, a promotion match is played between the first-team champions in the Second Division. If there are two vacant places, both first-team champions in the Second Division are promoted.
- Section 2: Both non-first-team champions in the Second Division are promoted. If there are three vacant places, the third-best non-first team in the Second Division plays a promotion/relegation match against number 7 of First Division section 2.

Three first-team champions and one non-first-team champion in the Second Division:

- Section 1: If there is one vacant place, a promotion match is played between the two best first-team champions in the Second Division. If there are two vacant places, the highest-ranked first team in the Second Division is promoted and a promotion match is played between the second- and third-best first teams in the Second Division.
- Section 2: The non-first-team champion in the Second Division is promoted and a promotion/relegation match is played between the second-best non-first team in the Second Division and number 7 of First Division section 2. If there are three vacant places, an additional promotion/relegation match is played between the third-best non-first team in the Second Division and number 8 of First Division section 2.

Four first-team champions and no non-first-team champions in the Second Division:

- Section 1: If there is one vacant place, a promotion match is played between the two best first teams in the Second Division. If there are two vacant places, promotion matches are played between the highest- and fourth-ranked first teams in the Second Division and between the second- and third-ranked first teams in the Second Division.

- Section 2: A promotion/relegation match is played between the highest-ranked non-first team in the Second Division and number 8 of First Division section 2, and between the second-best non-first team in the Second Division and number 7 of First Division section 2. If there are three vacant places, the highest-ranked non-first team in the Second Division is promoted and a promotion/relegation match is played between the second-best non-first team in the Second Division and number 8 of First Division section 2.

7. Other provisions:

- a. Clubs whose first team plays promotion/relegation matches between the First and Second Divisions may not participate in those promotion/relegation matches with another team.
- b. If a club is represented by a team in First Division section 2, a team of that club in the Second Division may not participate in the promotion/relegation matches between the First and Second Divisions.

8. The CW decides on situations not described in paragraphs 1 through 7.

9. During a promotion/relegation match between teams from the First and Second Divisions, Article 53, except paragraph 3, applies to both matches in the best-of-two series. The CW appoints one referee and two National Umpires for each match in the best-of-two series.

Article 66: Promotion and relegation between the Second Division and the Third Division and below

1. The teams finishing 7th and 8th in each section of the Second through Sixth Divisions are relegated to the next lower division.
2. The champion of each section of the Third through Ninth Divisions is promoted to the next higher division.
3. Open entry is possible for the Sixth through Ninth Divisions and the Men's Divisions.
4. Before 15 May, clubs may submit a reasoned request to the CW for voluntary relegation of a team in the Third Division or lower. The CW decides within 2 weeks after receipt.
5. No more than 4 teams from one club may play in the Second Division.

Article 67: Filling vacant places by division

1. Vacant places in the National League are filled through additional promotion:
 - a. a vacant place in the Eredivisie is filled through additional promotion from the First Division in accordance with paragraph 2;
 - b. a vacant place in the First through Fifth Divisions is filled through additional promotion from the next lower division in accordance with paragraph 3.
2. A vacant place in the Eredivisie is filled, in order, by:
 - a. number 8 of the Eredivisie, provided that team has been relegated;
 - b. the next team on the Eredivisie reserve promotion list, consisting of all teams from First Division section 1 ordered in accordance with Article 56.
3. The reserve promotion list for a division, First through Fifth Division, consists of the teams finishing second in the sections of the next lower division, ordered by horizontal comparison under Article 63 paragraph 4. The reserve promotion list for the First Division does not include Second Division teams whose possible promotion would conflict with Article 64 paragraph 1b or 1c.

4. Clubs whose team does not appear on the reserve promotion list may apply to the CW to be considered for additional promotion. Such an application is considered only after the reserve promotion list has been fully processed.

Article 68: Declining promotion

1. Section champions in First Division section 1 and the Second through Ninth Divisions are promoted to the next higher division.
2. Clubs whose team is promoted under promotion/relegation regulations to a division without open entry may, within 2 weeks after announcement of the promotion, submit a reasoned request to the CW not to promote the team. The CW decides within 2 weeks after receipt.
3. For teams promoted to a division with open entry, clubs may decline promotion when entering their teams.

CHAPTER IX MATCH OFFICIALS

Article 69: Appointment of match officials

1. The CW determines in which divisions of the National League a referee and/or National Umpires are appointed for every match and announces this at the same time as the competition allocation, in accordance with Article 11.
2. The CW may appoint a referee and/or National Umpires for a competition match. If several matches are played at the same time in the same sports hall, one referee may be appointed for those matches.
3. The CW notifies the clubs concerned of the appointment of a referee and/or National Umpires no later than 48 hours before the start of the relevant match.
4. If an appointed referee is not present, the next appointed National Umpire takes over the referee's duties.
5. A National Umpire who assumes the duties of the referee under paragraph 4 has all duties and powers of a referee under these Competition Regulations.

Article 70: Duties of the referee

1. The referee decides all disputes that may arise during a match, in accordance with the AWR.
2. If a player seriously fails to comply with the competition provisions, or otherwise obstructs the proper conduct of a competition match, the referee may disqualify the player. The disqualification also applies to all events the player has yet to play in that competition match. The player may not be replaced in the relevant event(s).
3. Before the start of the match, the referee must inspect the sports hall and, where necessary, give the appointed competition official instructions concerning improvements.
4. The referee is responsible for exchanging line-ups and player identification documents in accordance with Article 41.
5. The referee directs the appointed National Umpires.
6. The CW may assign additional duties to the referee by separate instruction.

Article 71: Referee reporting

1. The referee must report on the match by means of the referee report and record any violations of the competition provisions during the match.
2. The referee report must be signed as seen by the team manager of both the home and away team.
3. The referee must submit the referee report to the CW within 24 hours after the end of the match.

CHAPTER X CANCELLATION PROCEDURE

Article 72: Circumstances for cancellation

1. Weather or other circumstances may justify full or partial cancellation, for example a very severe storm, black ice or fog. In such circumstances, the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) issues a warning via radio/television and the internet advising people to travel only when necessary.
2. In general, cancellation may be decided upon when it is not responsible to travel, either nationwide or in a specific region. Specific reasons for cancellation may include:
 - a. a nationwide or regional weather alert by the KNMI, or an announcement of extreme or dangerous weather (red or orange warning);
 - b. the threat or occurrence of a terrorist attack in the Netherlands resulting in road closures and/or advice to stay at home;
 - c. other warnings issued by the government through the media advising people to stay at home as much as possible, for example because of flooding.

Article 73: Cancellation Coordinator

1. If one of the circumstances referred to in Article 72 occurs, Badminton Nederland may decide to cancel the competition in full or in part. Following consultation with the Badminton Nederland office, the decision is taken by the Cancellation Coordinator in accordance with the procedure below. The initiative to cancel may come from the Cancellation Coordinator or from the CW. If cancellation is decided, this is communicated through Teletekst for the Eredivisie and through www.badminton.nl.
2. Two persons are responsible for cancellations: the Cancellation Coordinator and a deputy. One of them can be reached during every competition weekend via 06-34073776. Decision-making authority rests with the Cancellation Coordinator on duty. In the event of full or partial cancellation, any costs already incurred by clubs fall within the normal match risk and are therefore not reimbursed.

Cancellation procedure:

Reason: weather alert/weather warning or government advice to stay at home.

1. The CW, Badminton Nederland office or regional contact persons inform the Cancellation Coordinator.
2. The Cancellation Coordinator consults the CW and the Badminton Nederland office staff member responsible for the competition.
3. The Cancellation Coordinator decides on full or partial cancellation of the National League.

4. The Cancellation Coordinator publishes the cancellation on the Badminton Nederland website, www.badminton.nl; informs Teletekst for Eredivisie matches; informs match officials for Eredivisie and First Division matches via the CW; and informs the Communications department for the press release.
5. Clubs whose match has been cancelled inform the competition contact person (CCP) of the opposing club.

CHAPTER XI EXEMPTIONS

Article 74: Articles eligible for exemption

1. At a club's request, the CW may grant an exemption from the following Articles of these Regulations:
 - Chapter II - Article 9 (away and home matches)
 - Chapter III - Article 16 paragraph 2 (eligible Eredivisie players)
 - Chapter III - Article 18 paragraph 1 (change of club)
 - Chapter IV - Article 23 paragraph 3 (team composition)
 - Chapter IV - Article 25 (completion of the competition)
 - Chapter IV - Article 26 (venue requirements)
 - Chapter IV - Article 27 (playing days and times)
 - Chapter V - Article 30 (match date)
 - Chapter V - Article 48 (matches not played)
 - Chapter VII - Article 58 paragraph 1 (participation in play-off matches)
 - Chapter VII - Article 61 paragraph 2 (participation in championship matches)
2. At a club's request, the CW may grant an exemption from Articles of additional match provisions if the Article concerned is marked as eligible for exemption in those additional provisions.

Article 75: Procedure

A club must submit a request for exemption to the CW no later than 2 weeks before the date on which the exemption is to take effect. The CW notifies the applicant and the other parties concerned of its decision within 1 week after receipt of the request.

CHAPTER XII VIOLATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE DEFAULTS

Article 76: General

1. Violations of these Regulations are handled in accordance with the provisions of the Disciplinary Regulations.
2. For the same violation, an administrative measure may be imposed in addition to a disciplinary sanction and vice versa.

Article 77: Administrative defaults

Any incorrect or late submission or payment may be regarded as an administrative default as referred to in Chapter XII Article 40 of the Disciplinary Regulations.

Article 78: Violations

1. Any act or omission constituting a breach of a provision of these Regulations or the additional match provisions may be regarded as a violation as referred to in Chapter III Article 12 of the Disciplinary Regulations.
2. The following are among the acts regarded as violations within the meaning of Chapter III Article 12 of the Disciplinary Regulations:
 - a. a club fields a player in an event who is not eligible to play;
 - b. a club allows a player to play under a false name or identity;
 - c. a player is guilty of misconduct during a competition match;
 - d. a club team fails to appear, as described in Articles 46 and 48;
 - e. a club provides incorrect information in the submissions prescribed in Articles 22, 29, 44, 47 and 48.

Article 79: Administrative charges and maximum fines

1. Eredivisie and First Division
 - a. Administrative default: EUR 25
 - b. Incomplete appearance: EUR 100
 - c. Failure to appear: EUR 150
 - d. Fictitious entry of results where a team fails to appear or appears incomplete: EUR 100
 - e. A player playing in a match under another name: EUR 100
 - f. Deliberately entering an incorrect result in order to influence the course of the competition: EUR 100
 - g. One person playing in concurrent Badminton Nederland competitions under different federation numbers: EUR 100
 - h. Withdrawal from the competition: EUR 200 in addition to the entry fee
2. Other divisions
 - a. Administrative default: EUR 25 for repeated default
 - b. Incomplete appearance: EUR 40 for repeated default
 - c. Failure to appear: EUR 75
 - d. Fictitious entry of results where a team fails to appear or appears incomplete: EUR 100
 - e. A player playing in a match under another name: EUR 100
 - f. Deliberately entering an incorrect result in order to influence the course of the competition: EUR 100
 - g. One person playing in concurrent Badminton Nederland competitions under different federation numbers: EUR 75
 - h. Late withdrawal from the competition: EUR 90 in addition to the entry fee

Article 80: Other sanctions

Violation: Failure to appear.

Sanction: Deduction of 8 match points.

Violation: Fictitious entry of results where a team fails to appear or appears incomplete.

Sanction: Deduction of 2 match points per fictitiously entered event for both teams.

Violation: Deliberately entering an incorrect result in order to influence the course of the competition.

Sanction: Deduction of 8 match points for both teams.

Violation: A player playing in a match under another name.

Sanction: Deduction of 2 match points per event played and declaration of the event as lost by the maximum score. The sanction applies to the team in which the player competed under another name.

Violation: One person playing in concurrent Badminton Nederland competitions under different federation numbers.

Sanction: All events played are declared lost.

Violation: Fielding an ineligible player.

Sanction: The event is declared lost by the maximum score.

Violation: In the Eredivisie, a player participates in an event contrary to the strength order, other than in the case of an amended line-up.

Sanction: The event and the next higher event are declared lost by the maximum score.

CHAPTER XIII PROTEST AND APPEAL

Article 81: Right and manner of submission

1. Clubs participating in a competition may lodge a protest with the CW against decisions of Competition Management and the CW made under the Competition Regulations.
2. A protest is considered only if the following conditions are met:
 - a. the protest must be received by the Badminton Nederland office no later than 1 week after receipt of the decision. If the decision has been published solely in an Official Notice, the day following the date of that notice is regarded as the day on which the decision was communicated;
 - b. the protest must state the grounds on which it is based;
 - c. the protest is considered only after receipt of an amount of EUR 15. If the protest is declared wholly or partly well-founded, the amount is refunded. If the amount has not been received within 2 weeks after expiry of the protest period, the protest is inadmissible.

Article 82: Handling

1. In the case of a protest against a sanction as referred to in Articles 79 and 80, or against another type of decision by the CW, the CW decides within one month after hearing all parties concerned.
2. Depending on the nature of the protest, the CW may deviate from the period referred to in paragraph 1, provided that a decision is made within one month after expiry of the original period. If the period is extended, the parties concerned are notified.
3. The CW communicates its decision to the parties concerned, stating the grounds on which the decision is based.

Article 83: Appeal

1. A decision of the CW as referred to in Article 82, other than a decision concerning a sanction as referred to in Articles 79 and 80, may be appealed to the Board of Badminton Nederland.
2. An appeal is considered only if the following conditions are met:
 - a. the appeal must be received by the Badminton Nederland office no later than 1 week after the CW's decision;
 - b. the appeal must state the grounds on which it is based;
 - c. the appeal is considered only after receipt of an amount of EUR 50. If the appeal is declared wholly or partly well-founded, the amount is refunded. If the amount has not been received within 14 days after expiry of the appeal period, the appeal is inadmissible.

Article 84: Handling of appeal

1. In an appeal as referred to in Article 83, the Board of Badminton Nederland decides within one month.
2. Depending on the nature of the appeal, the Board may deviate from the period referred to in paragraph 1, provided that a decision is made within one month after expiry of the first period. If the period is extended, the club or match official that lodged the appeal is notified.
3. The Board communicates its decision to the club that lodged the appeal and to the other parties, stating the grounds on which the decision is based.

Article 85: Further appeal

No further appeal is possible against a decision of the Board of Badminton Nederland as referred to in Article 82.

CHAPTER XIV FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 86: Unforeseen cases and interpretation

1. In cases not provided for by these Regulations, the Board of Badminton Nederland decides, after hearing the CW, in accordance with the Articles of Association.
2. The Regulations Committee advises on the interpretation of the Articles of these Regulations in accordance with the Articles of Association.