

GENERAL COMPETITION REGULATIONS OF BADMINTON NETHERLANDS

CONTENTS

Chapter	Subject	Articles
Chapter I	Definitions, abbreviations and general provisions	Articles 1-2
Chapter II	Competitions and matches	Articles 3-11
Chapter III	Technical officials	Articles 12-15
Chapter IV	Rights and obligations of participants	Articles 16-23
Chapter V	Player provisions	Article 24
Chapter VI	Exemptions	Articles 25-26
Chapter VII	Final provisions	Article 27

CHAPTER I — DEFINITIONS, ABBREVIATIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 — Definitions and abbreviations

For the purposes of these Regulations, the following terms shall have the meanings set out below:

Membership number — The number under which a natural person is registered as a member of Badminton Netherlands.

National umpire — A member of Badminton Netherlands holding a valid umpire licence.

BWF — Badminton World Federation.

Coach — A regular supervisor of a player or team who sits in the chair designated for them or otherwise performs their duties during a match.

League competition — An organised system of fixtures intended to establish a ranking at the end of the competition season. The system takes place within one competition season. Participation is open exclusively to teams representing one or more clubs.

CW — Competition Affairs Committee (Commissie Wedstrijdzaken).

Participant — A player, pair or team.

Doping — A violation as defined in Chapter 1, Article 2 of the Doping Regulations.

Clothing — Garments, including footwear, worn during play.

List of Approved Shuttles — The list of shuttles specified in the Approved Shuttles Regulations.

NRB / NJRB — National Badminton Ranking / National Junior Badminton Ranking.

Official Announcements — Announcements published by Badminton Netherlands as referred to in the General Regulations.

Match — A contest between two players or pairs in a discipline to determine which is stronger.

Master calendar — An overview of the competition season indicating the weeks in which the league competitions for which the CW is responsible, and the relevant tournaments, are played.

Advertising — All activities intended to communicate a message to the public in order to induce it to purchase a product or service, or to create a favourable attitude towards a company, institution or idea.

Advertising displays — Advertising text and/or images placed in any form in the competition area, on competition equipment or on players.

Referee — A member of Badminton Netherlands holding a valid referee licence.

Umpire — The person who conducts a match.

Player — A person who plays badminton.

Laws of Badminton — The Dutch text of the Laws of Badminton as adopted by the Federation Board.

Discipline — Men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles or mixed doubles.

Sponsor — A natural or legal person who provides money and/or a performance having monetary value, in return for which the sponsored party provides communication opportunities arising from their sporting activities.

Team name — In all team competitions governed by these Regulations, the team name consists of a combination of the club name, a possible sponsor name and the team number assigned to the team.

Team official — An official who forms part of the support staff of a player or team.

Tournament — A coherent group of matches concentrated in terms of place and time.

Club — A member club of Badminton Netherlands.

Competition fixture — A match in an individual tournament, or a contest comprising a specified number of matches in a league competition or team tournament.

Competition provisions — A body of provisions under which a competition fixture or a coherent series of competition fixtures is played.

Technical official — A referee, national umpire or line judge.

Competition organiser — The person or entity that has obtained approval to organise a competition or is entitled to do so under the regulations.

Competition season — 1 August to 31 July.

Sunday club — A club which, on the basis of its articles of association known to Badminton Netherlands, does not in principle play league fixtures on Sundays.

Article 2 — Provisions and implementing regulations

1. On the proposal of the CW, the Federation Board shall adopt the implementing regulations listed below under these Regulations. Newly adopted implementing regulations shall take effect at the start of the following competition season. Each implementing regulation must state its effective date.
 - a. Implementing Regulations for the NRB and Implementing Regulations for the NJRB: these regulations specify the guidelines used to determine the playing strength of players and junior players, respectively, who are eligible for Badminton Netherlands events;
 - b. Implementing Regulations for Venue Requirements (Article 5): these regulations set out the requirements to be met by a venue hosting badminton competitions governed by the GCR;
 - c. Implementing Regulations for Approved Shuttles (Article 6): these regulations contain a List of Approved Shuttles and the procedure for the inspection and reinspection of shuttles. They also describe quality assurance and assign the shuttles on the List of Approved Shuttles to quality categories. Finally, they specify the categories of competition for which a particular shuttle may be used;
 - d. Implementing Regulations for Clothing and Advertising at Badminton Competitions (Chapter IV, Article 19): these regulations contain further rules concerning clothing and advertising displays at badminton competitions;
 - e. Implementing Regulations for Cards Issued: these regulations establish the policy on penalties following the issuing of a card for misconduct as referred to in Article 16.7 of the Laws of Badminton;
 - f. Implementing Regulations for Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Team Officials and Players: these regulations contain the codes of conduct for coaches, team officials and players;

- g. Implementing Regulations for Matches Using an Alternative Scoring and Service System: these regulations establish the policy on applying alternative scoring systems and service rules as referred to in Appendix 2.3 of the Laws of Badminton;
 - h. Implementing Regulations for the Obligation to Train and Provide Technical Officials: these regulations determine which member clubs are obliged to provide and/or arrange the training of a technical official.
2. The implementing regulations referred to in paragraph 1 shall be adopted as follows:
- a. the regulations under b, c, d, g and h by 1 March, if necessary; the regulations shall then apply for an indefinite period;
 - b. the regulations under a, e and f, if necessary; the regulations shall then apply for an indefinite period.

CHAPTER II — COMPETITIONS AND MATCHES

Article 3 — Types of competition

1. The following types of competition are distinguished:
 - a. league competitions: a series of fixtures between teams as defined in the League Competition Regulations;
 - b. tournaments: a series of matches as defined in the Tournament Regulations.
2. League competitions are divided into:
 - a. National League Competition: organised under the responsibility of the CW in accordance with the provisions of the League Competition Regulations applicable to that competition;
 - b. Junior League Competition: organised under the responsibility of the CW in accordance with the provisions of the League Competition Regulations applicable to that competition;
 - c. Other league competitions: organised under the responsibility of the CW and defined by regulations applicable to that competition;
 - d. Further league competitions: the Federation Board may permit organisations to organise a league competition.
3. Tournaments must be played in accordance with the Tournament Regulations.

Article 4 — Master calendar

Each year, by 1 December and on the proposal of the CW, the Federation Board shall adopt the master calendar for the following competition season, containing at least:

- a. the start date and competition weeks of the National League Competition;
- b. the start date and competition weeks of the Junior League Competition;
- c. the start date and competition weeks of the Cup Competition;
- d. championships and national circuit tournaments falling under the responsibility of the CW;
- e. international tournaments falling under the responsibility of the Federation Board.

The CW shall publish the Master Calendar through the Official Announcements.

Article 5 — Venue

1. The venue must meet the requirements set out in the applicable Implementing Regulations for Venue Requirements. These requirements concern badminton venues used for competitions governed by the GCR.
2. The requirements are differentiated according to the types of competition specified in Article 3 and the level of the competition.
3. The requirements must be accompanied by instructions explaining how an exemption may be requested, the applicable time limits and the manner in which an appeal may be lodged against a decision.

Article 6 — Shuttles

1. The Implementing Regulations for Approved Shuttles shall contain:

- a. a list of approved shuttles;
 - b. a quality classification assigning the shuttles on that list to categories;
 - c. a rule specifying the level of competition for which a particular shuttle category is suitable.
2. All competitions governed by the GCR must be played using shuttles approved under this list.
3.
 - a. Amendments or additions to the list shall make the approval of a shuttle for the relevant category effective from the date on which the approval is published;
 - b. A shuttle may be added to the list during a season, but may only be removed from the list or placed in a lower quality category with effect from the next competition season.

Article 7 — Competition organiser

1. The competition organiser shall determine the deadline(s):
 - a. by which entries must be submitted; this deadline must fall before the beginning of the series of competitions;
 - b. on which, or by which, team line-ups or eligibility to play may be changed.
2. The competition organiser is responsible for notifying individual participants, or teams in the case of team competitions, in good time:
 - a. of the relevant playing time(s);
 - b. of entries that have not been accepted, stating the reason(s).

Article 8 — Competition provisions

1. The competition provisions must state:
 - a. how the winner of a competition or series of competitions is determined;
 - b. any restrictions on the same player participating in different matches.
2. The competition provisions for contests between teams must also state:
 - a. the number and disciplines of the matches comprising a contest between two teams;
 - b. the categories of player eligible to play for the team.

Article 9 — Violations and administrative omissions

The Disciplinary Regulations apply to violations, administrative omissions and penalties.

Article 10 — Sunday clubs

1. In the National League Competition, the fourth division and lower, and the Junior League Competition, account shall be taken of Sunday clubs.
2. In the Junior League Competition and in divisions of the National League Competition in which account is taken of Sunday clubs, a Sunday club shall not play league fixtures on Sunday.

Article 11 — Championships

1. The CW shall organise the following annually:
 - a. the Netherlands National Championship;

- b. the Netherlands National Junior Championship, possibly held separately for the various junior age groups;
 - c. the Netherlands National Veterans Championship, possibly held separately for the various veteran age groups;
 - d. the Netherlands National Para-Badminton Championship, possibly held separately for the various para-badminton disciplines;
 - e. regional championships;
 - f. regional junior championships, possibly held separately for the various junior age groups;
 - g. regional veterans championships, where applicable, possibly held separately for the various veteran age groups;
 - h. national championships for league teams, possibly held separately for the various divisions.
2. The names of the championships referred to in paragraph 1 shall be determined by the organising body.
 3. For the championships referred to under paragraph 1(a) through (g), a player must be a Dutch national or a resident of the Netherlands.
 4. For the championships referred to under paragraph 1(e) through (g), a player must have their badminton domicile in the relevant region. Acceptance of the entry establishes the player's badminton domicile.
 5. For junior and veterans championships, a player must comply with the relevant age provisions.

CHAPTER III — TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

Article 12 — Officials

1. The CW shall adopt the following lists:
 - a. a list of referees operating at national level;
 - b. a list of national umpires operating at national level;
 - c. a list of line judges operating at national level.
2. These lists shall be administered and maintained by the Technical Officials Section of the CW.

Article 13 — Referee and equivalent official

1. On behalf of Badminton Netherlands, the referee shall supervise the organised event in the broadest sense. The referee shall safeguard the interests of the participants and ensure that no unauthorised departures from the competition provisions occur.
2. The referee is responsible for supervising the application and interpretation of the Laws of Badminton. The referee shall ensure that the umpires, service judges and line judges appointed to matches apply the Laws of Badminton correctly.
3. The referee shall make a binding decision:
 - a. in all cases concerning the application or interpretation of the Laws of Badminton in which the umpire declares that they are not authorised to make a decision;
 - b. on protests by players concerning an umpire's application or interpretation of the Laws of Badminton, provided that they do not concern a question of fact;
 - c. in disputes as to whether a shuttle meets the requirements set by the Laws of Badminton;
 - d. on the replacement of an umpire, service judge or line judge in a match, whether or not at a player's request;
 - e. on all other disputes that may arise in a competition.
4. The referee shall decide whether to disqualify a player from a match:
 - a. in the event of misconduct as referred to in Article 14(3);
 - b. where, in the referee's own opinion, serious or persistent offences within the meaning of the Laws of Badminton occur during a match.
5. Other officials may be deemed equivalent to a referee to the extent that one or more, or all, of the duties listed above are assigned to that official in accordance with the applicable regulations.

Article 14 — Umpire

1. The umpire is responsible for conducting a match in accordance with the applicable Laws of Badminton and may be assisted by a service judge and line judges. They must comply with the "Recommendations to Technical Officials" adopted by Badminton Netherlands.
2. Errors or omissions by the officials referred to above shall not invalidate the match.
3. If, in the umpire's opinion, a player commits serious or persistent offences during a match within the meaning of the Laws of Badminton, the umpire shall suspend the match and

immediately report the incident to the referee or equivalent official. If the referee decides to disqualify the player, the disqualification shall apply to all matches still to be played in the tournament concerned or during the league fixture concerned.

Article 15 — Training and provision of technical officials

1. Clubs participating in the National League Competition and organisers of tournaments forming part of a national or regional tournament circuit may be required to arrange for members of their club to be trained as nationally qualified umpires or referees and to make such technical officials available for league fixtures or tournaments organised by clubs other than the club concerned.
2. The Federation Board has further detailed this obligation in the “Regulations on the Obligation to Train and Provide Technical Officials”, as referred to in Chapter I, Article 2(1)(h).

CHAPTER IV — RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

Article 16 — Eligibility to play

1. To be eligible to participate in competitions, a player must:
 - a. be a member of Badminton Netherlands, either as a club member or as an individual member within the meaning of Chapter II, Article 1(1) of the Articles of Association, or be affiliated with a federation that is a member of the BWF;
 - b. comply with the provisions of the relevant regulations (the League Competition Regulations or Tournament Regulations);
 - c. satisfy the requirements imposed by the competition organiser;
 - d. comply with the relevant provisions of the Doping Regulations.
2. A player must meet the eligibility requirements at the time entries close.
3. The competition organiser is entitled to request the information required to establish a player's eligibility.
4. Members of Badminton Netherlands may participate in competitions organised by organisations that are not members of Badminton Netherlands or the BWF, unless the Federation Board has prohibited participation by members of Badminton Netherlands.

Article 17 — Rights

1. A player may protest to the referee or equivalent official against an umpire's, service judge's or line judge's application or interpretation of a Law of Badminton, provided that the protest does not concern a question of fact.
2. A player in a match may ask the referee or equivalent official to replace an umpire, service judge or line judge, subject to paragraph 3 of this Article. In that event, Article 13(3) shall apply.
3. If an official has been replaced at a player's request, neither that player nor their partner may request the replacement of the new official.

Article 18 — Obligations

1. Every registered player must provide the information requested under Article 16(3) promptly, truthfully and without reservation.
2. A participant whose entry has been accepted and who has consequently been included in the competition schedule is obliged to:
 - a. pay the entry fee, regardless of whether they participate;
 - b. play all matches arising from the competition schedule.
3. If a participant is unable to appear for a scheduled competition due to force majeure, the competition organiser must be notified as soon as possible, stating the reason.
4. Every coach, team official and player must comply with the Implementing Regulations for Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Team Officials and Players.

Article 19 — Clothing and advertising

1. The Implementing Regulations for Clothing and Advertising at Badminton Competitions contain further rules on clothing and advertising on the clothing of players and others directly involved in a match, on advertising on badminton equipment, and on advertising on and around the court.
2. Members of Badminton Netherlands and organisers of badminton competitions held under the Tournament Regulations or League Competition Regulations must comply with the provisions of the Implementing Regulations referred to above.
3. During matches, players must wear sports clothing that complies with:
 - a. the Implementing Regulations referred to above;
 - b. any supplementary or differing clothing provisions laid down in advance by the competition organiser in accordance with the Implementing Regulations.
4. If badminton competitions are televised, the organisers of those competitions and the players in the matches being recorded for television must comply with the applicable rules on advertising, including those of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the Media Act, among others, where those rules impose restrictions different from those contained in these Regulations or the Implementing Regulations.

Article 20 — Doping

1.
 - a. All matters concerning doping are governed by the national Doping Regulations and the associated appendices.
 - b. In all cases, the national Doping Regulations shall follow the national and international legal arrangements accepted as generally binding between the relevant umbrella bodies.
2. Every member of Badminton Netherlands, as well as every player who has registered to participate in competitions designated for doping control, is subject to the provisions of the national Doping Regulations and the associated appendices, and to the decisions of the Doping Authority and its committees or bodies.

Article 21 — Sex

1. For the application of competition provisions, the current registration of a person's sex in the civil registry shall determine whether a player is regarded as male or female. If a player is classified as neither male nor female, the Federation Board shall, on the proposal of the CW, decide in which category the player may compete.
2.
 - a. The organiser of a tournament or league fixture is entitled to require a player to produce an extract from the civil registry where there are reasonable grounds to doubt the sex stated for that player.
 - b. This verification may take place only before the relevant tournament or league fixture.

Article 22 — Team designations

1. Where a club's name does not contain a sponsor name, a sponsor name may be included in the designation of one or more teams as the team name.

2. The use of a sponsor name as part of a team name must comply with the Team Designation Regulations included in the League Competition Regulations.

Article 23 — Contributions, entry fees and surcharges

1. Clubs participating in a league competition shall pay Badminton Netherlands an entry fee for each participating team, the amount of which is determined annually by the Federation Assembly.
2. Following approval of a tournament, the tournament organiser owes Badminton Netherlands an amount that must be paid within 14 days of the invoice date.
3. If an approved tournament is amended at the tournament organiser's request, the tournament organiser owes Badminton Netherlands an amount that must be paid within ten working days of the invoice date.
4. In the case of an open tournament, the tournament organiser owes Badminton Netherlands a surcharge per participant per discipline. If the tournament is a team tournament, a surcharge is due for each team, regardless of the number of participants per team and the precise format of the tournament. The surcharge must be paid within ten working days of the invoice date.
5. The Federation Assembly shall determine annually, in the budget, the amounts referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4.
6. The amounts referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 are not due for a tournament organised directly by the CW.

CHAPTER V — PLAYER PROVISIONS

Article 24 — Cash prizes

A player may not receive prizes having monetary value for participating in competitions where the value exceeds the maximum amounts established by the BWF for players in the competitions concerned (see the BWF Statutes). If the value of prizes received by a player exceeds that maximum, the player concerned shall remit the excess to Badminton Netherlands.

CHAPTER VI — EXEMPTIONS

Article 25 — Exemption provisions

At a club's request, the CW is authorised to grant the club an exemption from provisions of these Regulations or from provisions of the supplementary competition provisions referred to in Article 2, provided that the provision in these Regulations or in the relevant supplementary competition provisions is identified as a provision from which exemption may be granted.

Article 26 — Procedure

A club must submit a request for exemption to the CW no later than one month before the date on which the exemption is to take effect. The CW shall notify the club of its decision within 14 days after receiving the request.

CHAPTER VII — FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 27 — Unforeseen cases

1. In cases not provided for in these Regulations or the appendices, a decision shall be made in accordance with the Articles of Association.

Adopted by resolution of the Federation Assembly of Amended by resolutions of the Federation Assemblies of 22 June 1996, 21 June 1997, 26 June 1999, 2 October 2004, 20 October 2007, 21 June 2008, 20 June 2009, 26 June 2010, 5 February 2011, 23 June 2012, 2 February 2013, 22 June 2013, 29 November 2014, 18 June 2016, 3 February 2018, 15 June 2019 and 25 March 2023.

This document is an English translation of the Dutch “Algemeen Wedstrijdreglement Badminton Nederland”, version 08/2025. In the event of any discrepancy, the official Dutch text prevails.