**ULSTER SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS**

1. **Player Eligibility:**

A player may be part of a team only for as long as they are a registered student of the school.

In the league competition a player may not play for more than one school team or in more than one age group in a season. The same applies to the cup competition.

To be eligible to play in the league competition, players must be under the required age at midnight on the 31st December of the current school year. For the cup competition players must be under the required age at midnight on 30th June in the year of the competition.

1. **Constitution of Ties/Matches:**

Each school team will consist of a squad of at least 4 but no more than 6 eligible players, whose names and dates of birth should be submitted to the organiser in advance in ranked singles order.

Each tie shall consist of four singles and two doubles and the highest ranked singles player **must** play first doubles. Singles and doubles pairs shall play in order of merit.

Each match will consist of one game to 21 points with no setting.

The order of the play shall be singles followed by doubles or as directed by the organisers, 4th singles then 3rd singles, etc followed by 2nd doubles and then 1st doubles.

In each tie a team shall consist of four players chosen from the squad who will play all matches in that tie, and no change may be made to the team for that tie except were allowed for substitutions. In a tie each player will play one game of singles and one game of doubles.

The organiser may consider a team arriving late for a fixture, to have forfeited that match.

1. **Substitutions:**

In the event of a player having to concede a match through injury such that they cannot continue playing in the tie or in the competition, the referee may allow a substitute in any subsequent matches (eg doubles) in which the incapacitated player should have taken part provided that:

 The injury or other incapacity was caused entirely during play in the tie that had started and was not due solely to tiredness or the worsening of a previous ailment.

 The substitute selected shall not cause the team to break the rules on the order of merit in doubles.

 The incapacitated player may not participate in any further matches in the competition.

1. **Draws:**
2. The draw for the first-round ties will be done on a random basis
3. In a three team round robin the losing team will play the third team in the second round
4. In a 4 team round robin the winning team in each match in the first round will play the other losing team in the second round
5. If 5 teams have entered the league competition, they will be split into two groups, group A will have 3 teams (top two to semi-finals) and group B 2 teams both go into semi-final which will be cross-over winner of group A plays runner-up group B and winner of group B plays runner-up group A.
6. Six teams will be split into 2 groups of 3 teams, seven teams will be split into 1 group of 4 plus 1 group of 3, eight teams will be split into 2 groups of 4.
7. **Results Criteria:**

The following criteria will be used to determine the winner of the groups who go forward to semi-finals or finals;

Team Matches Won 3pts, draw 1pt each

Team Ties/Games Won (6-0, 5-1, 4-2)

Head-to-Head (win is worked out from **points** **for**)

Match points (auto generated in league planner)

Points for (auto generated in league planner)

1. **Shuttles:**

Good quality cork based plastic shuttles should be used for all Schools matches.

Feather shuttles may be used in matches if both teams agree, the shuttles must be an approved brand of shuttles and must be approved by the referee on the day.

1. **Supervision:**

Adult supervision must be provided by the schools involved at all matches, i.e. – a teacher or parent must be present in the hall during the match times. Only teachers or the designated supervising parent/adult may be positioned at the back of the court during play. All other adults will be allocated seating in a designated neutral viewing area.

1. **Clothing Regulations:**

Either a school’s PE clothes, or recognised sportswear is to be worn for all matches. Tracksuit bottoms should not be worn during play unless permission is granted previously from the referee.

1. **Under Age Players:**

In order to be in full compliance with the **Code of Ethics for Children in Sport** the following regulations on Schools who have players participating in the Schools Competition will apply:

* Each team must have an approved adult responsible for the players.
* Underage players and adults should not use the showers/changing rooms at the same time.
* When travelling to matches, care must be taken to ensure that one underage player does not travel in a car with an adult(s) unless one of the adults is the player’s parent.
* Schools should make the referee aware at the time of completing their entry form to participate, if any player or team is not willing to have their photograph taken. If not forthcoming, Ulster Schools’ will assume that Parents have signed a consent form in their own school to allow underage players to be photographed individually or as part of a group.