**Sheffield Forum Badminton Club Code of Conduct**

This code of conduct helps to ensure that all players have an enjoyable night of badminton. The aim of this document is to make clear to all players of the club's core values and the spirit in which we play the game.

Most of these guidelines are common courtesy, whilst others are specific to the badminton court. By adhering to the code of conduct, you will be helping us provide a safe, welcoming, and friendly environment for playing badminton.

**Courtesy**

Our number one rule is respect and consideration for other players. Treat others as how you would like to be treated yourself. Under no circumstances shall a player subject anyone to abuse of any kind (be it verbal or physical). At the discretion of the committee, players who are found to be in breach of this rule will no longer be permitted to play.

Do not use foul language, and endeavour to avoid language that may cause offense to others. In the event that you break this rule, apologise as soon as possible.

Be welcoming to all visitors and new players, introduce yourself, and explain to them how the club works. If you are not a member of the club’s committee, please introduce a visitor to a committee member as soon as possible.

At times, you may be paired up with players of lesser ability than yourself. Look after them, offer constructive advice, and make them feel welcome on court. It is essential that all people involved in badminton recognise and ensure that everyone has an equal right to participate and enjoy the sport, we were all beginners once!

**Safety**

Do not walk across any part of a badminton court while games are in progress.

Be mindful when walking behind a court while a rally is in progress. When possible, pause between the courts and continue walking in between rallies.

Do not play unless you feel fit and able to do so. If you feel an injury during a match, it is better to retire from the game than make any injury worse.

Should anyone become injured while on a court, immediately stop play on that court, and inform the sports centre staff if first aid may be necessary.

**Selecting Games**

Currently, we use a ‘one off one on system’ for games. This relies on players being fair and ensuring that everyone gets the opportunity to play. If you have just played and there are others waiting, you should ensure that those waiting play before you go on to a court again.

Please explain the system to any new players, and make sure they are getting their fair share of games.

Do not complain if you are paired with players of a significantly different standard to yourself for a game. If you don’t want to play with a certain player for any reason, politely excuse yourself from the court and wait for the next opportunity to play.

**In-Game Etiquette**

Introduce yourself to your partner if you have never met. When practical, introduce yourself to opponents you have not met before.

Near the beginning of the session, ensure all players on your court have warmed up before playing.

Toss or knock the shuttlecock up to determine which side will serve.

If your shuttlecock lands on another court, wait for a break in play before retrieving it.

If you lose the point and the shuttlecock is on your side of the court, it is considered polite to fetch and return the shuttlecock to the opponent's side of the court.

After a game, thank all the players by giving them a handshake or equivalent gesture.

**Line Calls, Lets, and Faults**

Make fair line calls when the shuttlecock lands on your side of the court.

The person nearest to the shuttlecock has the final decision and the call should not be disputed.

If you are in doubt as to whether the shuttlecock is in or out, either call it in favour of your opponent or play a let.

Importantly, respect and accept your opponent's calls – no matter how wrong you believe they may be.

If the shuttlecock hits the ceiling or other part of the playing environment, it is considered a let and the point should be re-played.

Have Fun!

We aspire to play competitive badminton, but this must be carried out in an atmosphere of friendly competition; we place greater emphasis on having fun.

Don't take things too seriously and be gracious in victory or defeat.

***There is nothing wrong with people having cause to laugh while they are on court!***