

## **Website version - Published October 2023**

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## **Bowls Loughborough League Rules Nomenclature & Constitution**

1. This competition shall be called the BOWLS LOUGHBOROUGH LEAGUE (hereinafter referred to as “the League”) and shall be controlled by a committee.
2. For men’s Leagues each constituent team shall comprise male full members of the same Club in membership of Bowls Loughborough (hereafter referred to as “the Association”) and for ladies Leagues each constituent team shall comprise female full members of the same club as defined above.
3. The constituent teams shall be divided into divisions as the League Committee shall determine.

### **Finance**

4. Applications for membership, in writing, shall reach the League Administrator not later than 30<sup>th</sup> September, accompanied by a deposit of £5.00 and the first year’s annual subscription.
5. The Annual subscription shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting and be payable by 31<sup>st</sup> December.
6. The Deposit shall be forfeit if a team fails to fulfil its obligations to the League.
7. If a team withdraws from the League having fulfilled its obligations to the League then its deposit shall be refunded.
8. All accounts and/or fines imposed by the League Committee must be paid within fourteen days (postmark date included) of the notification by the League Administrator. Any Club failing to comply with this rule shall have its outstanding account/fine or both doubled or be fined a further £5.00 whichever is the smaller. If any account remains outstanding after a further fourteen days the team concerned shall stand suspended until such time as the payment is made.

All monies shall be paid direct to the League Administrator.

### **Management, Nominations, Elections**

9. The League shall be governed by a League Committee comprising of a Chairman, League Administrator, Treasurer, and not more than two other members. This Committee shall be elected annually at the League AGM which shall be held in October.
10. All retiring Officers and Members shall be eligible for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election shall be nominated, in writing, by two bona fide member teams of the League. Such nominations to reach the League Administrator not later than 21<sup>st</sup> September.
11. The League Committee to meet as often as occasion demands.
12. The League Administrator shall be an Officer of the Association and shall report on League activities to all Association meetings.

13. All correspondence, protests and claims shall be addressed to the League Administrator who shall conduct the correspondence of the League and keep a record of its proceedings.

### **Power of the League Committee**

14. Each Committee member shall have one vote, but no member shall vote upon a matter solely appertaining to him/herself or the Club of which they are a member. In any event of a vote being equal the Chairman shall have a second and casting vote.

15. The Committee shall have power to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the League and shall have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the League, including any matters not provided for by the Rules.

16. All decisions of the League Committee shall be binding subject to the right to appeal under Rule 37. Decisions of the League Committee shall be forwarded to all concerned within fourteen days of the decision being made.

17. Three members shall form a quorum for the purpose of transacting business.

18. The Committee shall have power to fill any vacancy within the Constitution up to twenty-one days prior to the commencement of the League playing season.

### **Applications**

19. The President, Secretary and two other responsible members of a Club of the Association shall separately, for each team seeking election into Membership of the League, complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the League Administrator together with the Team Record Sheet for the ensuing season.

“We..... of ..... President, ..... of..... Secretary,  
..... of ..... and ..... of .....

Members of the ..... Bowling Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules of the Bowls Loughborough League and do hereby certify on behalf of the said Club to, if elected, conform to those Rules and to accept and abide by and implement the decisions of the League Committee subject to the right of appeal under Rule 37”

## Qualification of Players

20. Any bona fide member of a Club in membership of the Association as defined in 1. Above, may play for that Club's team(s) in the League subject to the following:

a) Players playing in the first match will be registered with that team. Any member playing after the first match in a team will be registered with that team if they have not played already for any other team.

b) A team may use up to three players (floaters) who have already played for a team from that club.

c) Two points shall be forfeit for any triple not playing due to insufficient players being present at the appropriate green and time, and 10 shots shall be added to the opposing teams' aggregate score. The offending team shall also be deducted two points from their total points for each rink they have failed to play.

d) No rink can play with less than three players.

e) No player can play for more than one club in a league or trophy game within the same section ie. Men - Monday or Thursday and ladies Tuesday or Friday, except under exceptional circumstances which must be applied for and the letter of application, sent to the League Administrator, must be signed by both clubs.

### **Playing Season, Conditions of Play, Start Times, Postponements**

21. The season shall commence no earlier than week 16 and end no later than week 37. Except as provided for in Rule 25, start times shall be:- Men's Monday league: 2.00pm.

Ladies Tuesday league: 10.00am

Thursday league: 6.00pm April, May, August and September, and 6.15pm in June and July.

Ladies Friday league: 6.00pm April, May, August and September, and 6.15pm in June and July

22. The League Committee shall have the power to extend the season by one week at either or both ends.

23. All matches shall comprise; Monday league three rinks of triples, Tuesday league two rinks of triples, Thursday league four rinks of triples and Friday league two rinks of triples, and shall be played to the Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark current edition, including domestic regulations for Bowls England. Three woods per player, 18 ends, no trial ends. NO PLAYER may visit the head.

24. a) Each match shall take place on the green of the HOME team. For Monday, Tuesday and Thursday leagues only, each team in the same division shall play each other once on a HOME and AWAY basis.

b) No games shall be cancelled for any reason other than unfit green. In exceptional circumstances, where a game is to be postponed the League Administrator **MUST BE INFORMED OF THE REASON** (by email), and his/her approval confirmed. Both teams must, within 72 hours of the postponement, agree a revised date of play to be within 21 days of the original date, and advise such date by email to the League Administrator. **ALL GAMES MUST BE PLAYED**. Failure to fulfil a fixture will result in an 8 or 10 point deduction to the offending team/s in Monday and Thursday leagues and 6point deduction in Tuesday and Friday leagues.

25. a) When a game is abandoned due to inclement weather and the number of ends played equals or exceeds 24 (Tuesday and Friday) 36 (Monday) or 48 (Thursday) the result stands. in accordance with rule 24b.

b) Clubs involved in tours must confirm the dates of such tours with the League Administrator no later than the preceding AGM of the League. He will liaise with both teams in advance of the season to arrange a mutually agreed date on which to play the game.

26. The League Committee shall review all abandoned matches and in cases where they deem it advantageous to the League and is not causing an injustice to any team they shall be empowered to order the result at the time of the abandonment to stand.

26. a) **Substitutions due to illness/injury**

Players leaving the green due to illness and/or injury during a game and the subsequent replacement of such player by a substitute.

1. If a player has to leave the green during the course of a game due to illness, serious injury or some other reasonable cause, and the player cannot return within 10 minutes, a substitute can be introduced only if, in the opinion of both skips or, if they cannot agree, in the opinion of the relevant League Administrator (or the Chairman if the Administrator is a member of either club involved in the game in which the incident takes place), and they deem the substitution is necessary.
2. The substitute can play in any position other than skip, and the other members of that rink can rearrange their positions as necessary.
3. If no substitute is available the rink will be forfeited and 2 points and 10 shots awarded to the other rink.
4. If an average of 24 ends for Ladies Tuesday and Friday leagues, 36 ends for Monday league and 48 ends for Thursday league games has been played at the time of the incident, and no further play is deemed possible in the match, the result will stand.
5. A substitute must be a full member of the club involved.

## **Result Cards & Publicity**

27. Result cards shall be supplied by the League through the League Administrator.

28. a) Once the score cards have been paired and drawn for rinks, no player shall be transferred to another rink except in an emergency and as agreed with the opposing Captain. Any team failing to adhere, Rule 20c will apply. On completion of the match, the result cards fully completed, giving names of competing players, competing teams, date of the match, rinks, Green's, scores of rinks and aggregate shot score and points tally from the match shall be sent **BY THE HOME TEAM ONLY** to the League Administrator to reach him/her not later than three days following the match. Failure to comply shall incur a 2 points penalty. This rule also applies to all abandoned matches.

b) The result of each match **MUST** be entered on to the website input result form, by **BOTH** teams not later than the morning following the match. Where a team plays with a rink or rinks short, this information **MUST** be included with the result and shown in the comments box at the bottom of the input form. Failure to comply will result in a 2 points penalty.

29. The Chairman shall be responsible for all publicity and press reports involving the League. The Fixture List shall be the copyright of the League and may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the written permission of the League Committee.

### **Points to Determine Championship**

30. The team in each division gaining the highest number of points shall be declared the winner of that division. Where two or more teams are level on points the team winning the most rinks shall be declared division winner. When two or more teams are still tied the team with the best shots difference shall be declared the divisional winner.

31. Each match shall carry ten points (Thursday league) eight points (Monday league) or 6 points (Tuesday and Friday leagues). Each rink shall carry two points for a win and one for a draw. Overall aggregate score shall carry two points for a win and one for a draw.

### **Promotion & Relegation**

32. The winners of each division shall be promoted to the next highest division and the bottom team in each division shall be relegated to the next lowest division. Where there are more than six (6) teams in a division, promotion and relegation to fall on the top two and bottom two teams respectively.

## **Withdrawal**

33. Unless a team gives notice of withdrawal to the League Administrator, in writing, prior to the League AGM it shall be deemed to be continuing in membership for the ensuing season.

34. Any team withdrawing at or after the League AGM, shall forfeit its deposit and be liable to the ensuing year's subscriptions.

## **Protests & Appeals**

35. All protests relating to ineligible players or interpretation of the Rules shall be referred to the League Administrator in writing, within three days of the match (Sunday excluded).

36. No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the League Committee unless the complaining team has deposited with the League Administrator the sum of £10.00 which may be forfeit in whole or part in the event of the claim not being upheld. The Committee may set the cost of setting up a hearing for any complaint against the losing team or both parties as the Committee deems fit. Both parties involved in a protest or complaint shall attend the hearing to present its case and hear the evidence of the other party.

37. A team may, within seven days of receipt in writing of the Committee's decision, appeal against the decision to the Chairman of the Association, in writing, together with a fee of £10.00. A copy of this appeal must at the same time be lodged with the League Administrator by the appellant team. The Chairman of the Association shall set up an appeal board of three members of the Association.

## **Trophies**

38. All Championship, Divisional and Cup/Trophy Competition trophies shall remain the property of the League and cannot be won outright. Upon a League becoming defunct the trophies shall individually be either returned to their donors or deposited in trust with the Association.

39. Each Trophy winning team shall, within seven days of receiving same, lodge with the League Administrator a written undertaking to fully insure said Trophy for the period it is in their possession and return same in like good order not later than 24<sup>th</sup> July. Such undertaking to be signed by three suitable persons from the teams parent Club. The League reserves the right to charge repair and/or cleaning costs where Trophies are returned dirty and in poor condition.

40. The League shall provide a suitable team trophy for each competition.

## **Alteration to Rules**

41. Alteration to these Rules may only be made at the AGM or a meeting specifically called for that purpose. Twenty-eight days' notice is required for any proposed alterations for discussion.