

COMPETITION AND LEAGUE BYE-LAWS
(Version April 2018)

1. CONDITIONS

Except where varied by these Bye-laws the Laws of Bowls England shall apply to the League and Competitions.

The Association shall

- (i) Run competitions as set out in and in accordance with Bye- Laws 2,3 and 4 below, and
- (ii) Organise and run a league in accordance Bye-Law 5 below

2. COMPETITION RULES

The Competitions shall consist of: -

- (a) **Singles Championship** - Four bowls each player. The game shall be won by the first player to score twenty-one shots
- (b) **Under 25's Singles Championship** - Four bowls each player. The game shall be won by the first player to score twenty-one shots. Open to all players who have not attained their twenty fifth birthday before 1st April in the year of the competition
- (c) **Pairs Championship** - Four bowls each player. The score after twenty-one ends shall decide the winners.
- (d) **Triples Championship** - Three bowls each player. The score after eighteen ends shall decide the winners.
- (e) **Fours Championship** - Two bowls each player. The score after twenty-one ends shall decide the winners.
- (f) **Secretaries Singles** - Four bowls each player. The game shall be won by the first player to score twenty-one shots. Open to all male members who are Club Secretaries, Assistant Club or men's Secretaries, Match Secretaries and Competition Secretaries but restricted to one entrant per club. In addition, The Association Secretaries and the previous year's winner of the competition may enter as of right and shall not be required to pay a fee.
- (g) **Champion of Champions Singles** - Four bowls each player. The game shall be won by the first player to score twenty-one shots. Open to the winner of the men's singles competition of the club of the previous season. A person who would otherwise be eligible but who has joined another Affiliated club shall be eligible to enter the competition

In addition, the winners of both the Association's Singles Championship and the Champion of Champions singles in the previous season may be entered as of right and shall not be required to pay a fee. Should an Associated club cease to exist before the last date for entering competitions of the Association the winner of that club's men's singles in the previous year shall be eligible to enter the competition under the name of his new Associated club.
- (h) **Two Wood Triples** – Two bowls each player. The score after twenty -one ends shall decide the winners
- (i) **The Coventry Cup** –a two fours team match, one entry each club. The higher aggregate shots of a team shall decide the winners. Failure to field 8 players (i.e two Fours) will result in a walkover for the opponents

3. COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

- (a) Players shall be members of an Affiliated club but may only enter Association competitions from one club.
- (b) Club secretaries shall supply, by the date advised by the Competition Secretary, a list of the members of their club who desire to enter the competitions showing their names, their addresses and telephone numbers, together with the appropriate fees. Only the contact shall be named in an entry.
- (c) The Competition Secretary shall advise the date of, and arrange for, the draw of all competitions to take place at an open meeting. The result of the draw shall be circulated to all clubs. A list of competitors who are to be contacted together with their telephone number shall also be circulated.
- (d) The finals of all the competitions (with the exception of the Coventry Cup) and both semi-finals of each competition shall be held on one day, the, the dates to be promulgated with the issue of the competition entry forms.

4. COMPETITION DRAW, CHALLENGERS AND OPPONENTS

- (a) The first named in any game in a competition is the Challenger who will, except for the semi-finals, have the choice of green and rink and in the case of Singles shall provide a marker. The Challenger shall, except for the semi-finals, not later than two days after the commencement of the round (or in the case of the preliminary round or if a preliminary round is not required, the First round, fourteen days prior to the completion date for that round), provide his opponent with three dates and times for the game to be played.

At least two dates shall be a weekday and the times shall not be earlier than 6.00pm. If he fails to do so his opponent may, by notifying the Competition Secretary that he wishes to do so, become the Challenger. He shall then provide his opponent with the requisite dates and times within two days. The opponent shall, within three days of receipt of the challenge, reply accepting one of the dates offered.

Where a Challenger has been unable to contact an opponent within the two days, he shall immediately inform the Competition Secretary. No challenger shall offer Sundays, Bank Holidays, Aldershot and District League or Coventry Cup evenings but the game may be played on these days and times earlier than 6.00pm by mutual consent. If either Challenger or opponent fails to comply with the above provisions, he shall be struck from the competition upon successful application of the opposing competitor, and, failing such application before the last date for playing the game, both competitors may be struck from the competition

- (b) The result of all ties in competitions must be communicated to the Competition Secretary immediately after the game if possible and in any case within twenty-four hours. Except in the case of singles competitions, the scorecard or scanned copy is to be sent by post or email to the Competition Secretary to arrive within three days of the tie being played and the onus is on the winner(s). The scorecard must bear the name(s) and initials of those taking part and signed by either players or skips. Skips are reminded that they are certifying not only the accuracy of the score but also the names of those taking part. Failure to comply with these Bye-laws may result in the defaulting player(s) or team(s) being struck from the competition.
- (c) If a game cannot be played due to inclement weather and due to this it cannot be played by the "end date" of the round the Competition Secretary may, on application from the players or teams, extend the "end date" of the round. If it is not played by the revised "end date" both players/teams shall be struck from the Competition.
- (d) Dress for all competitions – white or approved coloured shirts (in accordance with Bowls England and County guidelines) with grey trousers, except for the Semi-finals and Finals for which white trousers shall be worn.
- (e) The Semi-finals and Finals shall be played on greens selected by the Competition Secretary. Markers and Umpires shall be provided by the Association.
- (f) Constitution and Substitutes:
 - (i) In the Pairs, Triples, Fours and Two Wood Triples the players taking part in the first game of the respective competition shall all be members of the same club and shall constitute 'the team' for the remainder of the competition.
 - (ii) Any player included in the original entry, but not taking part, shall not play in any other entry in that competition.
 - (iii) In each competition, a team may use one (and only one) substitute who shall be a member of the same club as the team and has not played or been included in any other entry in the same competition. The substitute is eligible to play in all future rounds of the competition (including the final)
 - (iv) A substitute may play in any position (other than substitutes under WBB Laws).
- (g) When in Pairs, Triples, Fours or two wood Triples, the scores are level after the requisite number of ends have been played, an extra end shall be played to determine the winner.
- (h) Coventry Cup:

Except for the semi-finals and final the Challenger shall have choice of green and rinks. Before commencing the game, the Fours of each team to play on each rink shall be decided by random draw as will the rink to play an extra end should the scores be level after twenty-one ends have been played on both rinks

5. LEAGUE RULES

(a) Divisions and Teams

Clubs may only play members of their own club. Any individual may only play for one club.

League games shall be played with club teams of three Fours in divisions as required by the number of teams entered.

The divisions shall be titled The Premier and Divisions 1, 2, 3 etc.

The aggregate score after 21 ends have been played by all sides in the game shall decide the winner

(b) New Team Applications

An application to enter a team into the League shall be made to the General Secretary. Applications must normally be made before the meeting of the Executive Council for approval at the Annual General Meeting. Any application made after the meeting of the Executive Council but before the start of the League season is subject to the approval of the Management Committee.

(c) Game Date and Time, Missing Players

The league shall be played at the stipulated times on Tuesday evenings or such other evenings as deemed necessary by the League Secretary. Where possible each team shall play all other teams in its division at least once at home and once away the result of games played after the first Tuesday in August shall be determined after 18 ends have been played unless by mutual agreement the match starts before the stipulated time (and may be played to 18 ends by mutual agreement)

The team of a club playing in a lower division of the league cannot play with more players in their team than the number of players in the team of the Club playing in the higher division of the league. This does not apply if the team from the higher division has no game on the same day.

The Fours of each team to play on a particular rink shall be decided by a random draw before the game. It is not permitted for either team to decide otherwise but the home team may decide which three rinks shall be used,

A team may not play with only 2 players in a rink and players shall not be permitted to join the game after the third end has started. A rink playing with only three players shall lose 25% of the total shots scored and fractions shall be taken into account to determine points obtained or shots difference.

If a rink is playing with only three players then after two ends have been played and not before the Lead and Two shall play with three bowls and the Skip with two

If a player retires from a game underway and a substitute does not immediately replace him, then for the remainder of the game from the beginning of the next end the lead and two will play with three woods and the skip with two and the shots by that rink scored after the retirement shall be reduced by 25%.

(d) Scoring

One point shall be awarded to a winning rink and two points for the higher aggregate of shots scored by the 3 rinks. When the total score of a rink or the aggregate of shots scored by all rinks is tied the relevant points will be shared.

When a team fails to turn out or fails to field three rinks, five points and fifteen shots shall be awarded to their opponents.

A team playing with only three players on one or more rinks shall be deemed to have played three rinks. If the shots scored have been reduced in accordance with Bye-Law 5 (c) the results card must indicate which rinks played for either the whole or part of the game with only three players for and the reduced score put on the results card.

(e) League Positions

League positions shall be calculated on the basis of points gained. In the event of two or more teams being equal, the team with the better shot differences between shots won (as reduced, if applicable) and shots lost shall take the higher place.

If a game has not been played and other provisions of this bye-law do not apply, and the League Secretary determines that one of the teams is at fault, five points and fifteen shots shall be awarded to their opponents. If the League Secretary determines that both teams are at fault, no points or shots shall be awarded to either team.

The League Secretary shall be advised by email or text immediately after the game by the home team captain of the result of a match. Both teams must also send, by post or email, their result card, signed by both captains, to the League Secretary to arrive no later than 7 days after the commencement of any League game. Any team defaulting on the seven-day rule shall have the game recorded but shall forfeit their match points and shots.

(f) Weather Related and Other Postponed or Abandoned Games

If a game is postponed due to inclement weather or because of other exceptional circumstances the League Secretary shall be immediately informed of the postponement by the two captains who shall, within 7 days arrange and inform the League Secretary of the new date for the game to be played

If the game is abandoned after a total of at least 42 ends have been completed, then the score stands as a result

If a game is abandoned after a total of more than 15 but less than 42 ends have been played the League Secretary shall immediately be informed and the two captains shall within 7 days arrange and inform the League Secretary of the date the game is to be resumed. The game shall be resumed at the number of ends played before the abandonment (any incomplete ends being ignored). Where original players are not available a club may apply to the League Secretary for dispensation to play more than one substitute per rink. Substitutes may not play as skip and one of the original players will take over the position. Players may not move between rinks

If less than 15 ends have been played the League Secretary shall immediately be informed and the game shall be replayed. The two captains shall within 7 days arrange and inform the League Secretary of the date the game is to be played

The replay or resumed date shall be on a date before the scheduled end of the league season, only in matches postponed or abandoned in the final two weeks of the league season shall the League Secretary be empowered to extend the league season by a maximum of one week.

(g) Team Withdrawal

The results of all matches played by a team who withdraw from the league before the end of the season shall be void.

The results of any matches played by a team, who still have two matches not played at the end of the season, shall also be void.

Any team who has withdrawn from the league may apply for re-admission as a new team.