

## **Bowls Herefordshire Men's Section League Rules.**

(to apply from 2025 season onwards.)

**The competition is for men only and will be played under Men's County Competition Rules.**

### **1.01 Composition of Teams.**

The league competition shall be played between sides consisting of two rinks, i.e., eight bowlers, entered by the Clubs of Bowls Herefordshire Men's Section. Games will normally be eighteen ends with two trial ends but may be any number (see 1.13) as agreed by the captains, including 1 shot on the first two ends as a substitute for trial ends.

### **1.02 Composition of Divisions.**

The league is running effectively with three divisions, Division 1 2 & 3. At the end of each season the bottom teams in Division 1 & 2 are to play in Division 2 & 3 respectively during the following season and the top teams in Division 2 & 3 are to play in Division 1 and 2 respectively during the following season.

### **1.03 Adjustment to Composition of Divisions.**

Nothing in 1.02 shall prevent the General Committee, prior to the start of a season, from altering the number of divisions, increasing or decreasing the number of sides in the divisions, or adjusting the sides to be demoted or promoted to suit changes which have occurred.

### **1.04 Re-entry or First Entry into the League.**

A side which did not play in the competition during the previous season shall play in the lowest division on re-entry after withdrawal or on first entry into the competition.

### **1.05 Withdrawal of Sides.**

If a side is withdrawn from the competition during the course of a season, the results of the matches played shall be removed as if the side had not taken part, unless the General Committee shall decide otherwise.

### **1.06 Programme of Matches.**

Each side shall play two matches, one at home and one away, against every other side in their division. Any request for a change of date or venue shall be considered by the League Secretary, but any long-term request or continuing requests shall be referred to the General Committee.

The commencement date for the league season shall be in May each year, unless the number of teams (8 maximum) means that the League Secretary has to arrange otherwise. All matches to take place on Wednesday evenings commencing at 6.15pm.

A schedule of matches will be provided to all clubs during January each year.

It is the responsibility of each club Captain, prior to the start of the bowling season, to establish that there are no commitments, such as club tours, or entry in other leagues, which affect the playing of the league matches on Wednesdays. Each club is to advise

the League Secretary of any such clashing dates prior to January so they can be built into the league programme, where possible.

### **1.07 Scoring Points.**

In every match 6 points shall be contested. These shall be divided -

1. Two points to each winning four
2. One point to each rink which ties with another four
3. Two bonus points to the side winning on the aggregate total of the match.
4. One bonus point to each side which ties on the aggregate total of the match.

### **1.08 Position in League.**

The league position of each team in each division shall be determined at the end of the season by the number of points won. In the event of two or more teams gaining the same number of points, the position of these teams shall be determined by the differences between shots for and against. In the event of shots difference being the same, the winning team shall be decided by the number of shots for.

### **1.09 Time of Starting Matches.**

1. All matches shall start at 6.15pm with an additional 30 minutes allowed to cover for travel problems. It is the responsibility of the Away Team Captain to advise the Home Team Captain as soon as possible about any anticipated delay so that no doubts about the game being played arise.
2. During the season, under no circumstances may a game be postponed in advance of the day appointed unless permission has been obtained from the League Secretary.
3. If at the appointed time, **normally** 6.15pm, at least 6 players are present, the offending side shall field rinks of at least 3 players, the numbers 1 and 2 playing 3 woods each. Should a fourth rink member subsequently appear at any time, he may play in any position except skip and **33%** of the score shall be deducted from only those ends played with 3 players.
4. If for any reason except for those in (1) and (2) above, a team fails to arrive or arrives with less than 6 players at the venue at the appointed time plus 30 minutes the match shall be treated as postponed.

The circumstances surrounding the reasons for postponement must be given in writing by both sides to the League Secretary within 72 hours of the date of the postponed match. The League Secretary, or the General Committee if he thinks fit, will then rule on the postponed match by: -

- a. Deciding whether the offending team should be deducted any points, and / or
- b. Giving a walkover to one team. This will only be given in exceptional circumstances. If a walkover is given, then the team will receive 6 points and an aggregate score of plus 10 shots unless exceptional circumstances exist.

- c. League matches cannot be part of a normal friendly without permission of the League Secretary.

**1.10 Drawing for Rinks.**

- a. Following the completion of the respective Home and Away cards, they will be paired off face down. The Away team Captain will then endorse each pair of cards with one of the two rink numbers assigned to him by the Home team Captain.
- b. Once the draw for rinks has been completed no player changes between fours of the same side will be permitted.
- c. Captains will toss for jack.

**1.11 Clubs Allowed to Enter the League.**

All affiliated clubs in the **Bowls Herefordshire** County may request to enter the League but games must be played within the boundaries of Herefordshire.

**1.12 Postponed or Unfinished Matches.**

- a. All postponed or unfinished matches except for 1.09.4 should be rearranged within one week of the original day and played within four weeks. Matches may be played after the season has closed, by agreement between the teams and the League Secretary. The General Committee will rule on the result of any outstanding matches.
- b. It is the responsibility of the Home Team involved to rearrange these matches and to notify the League Secretary of the new dates on which the games will be played. The League Secretary is to be advised of any problems in rearranging these matches.
- c. A League fixture should normally never be cancelled. A fixture can only be postponed for a bereavement within the Club or the reasons given above. Clubs who postpone a fixture for any other reason will immediately be deducted 6 points from their team's total of points.
- d. **A Club failing to fulfil a fixture may be eliminated from the competition by the General Committee and all their match scores involving other Clubs shall be expunged. Should such a Club wish to join the League at some future date their application is to be referred to the General Committee.**

**1.13 Score in Unfinished Matches.**

If 10 ends or more (on both rinks) have been played in an unfinished match, the scores will stand. If 10 ends have not been played on both rinks the match will be rescheduled.

**1.14 Closing of Greens.**

a. In the event of inclement weather prior to a match commencing, the home side Captain shall make a decision regarding the availability of the green not less than two hours before the match, if possible. By agreement between the Captains of both sides, the starting time may be delayed for up to 30 minutes to enable the green to become playable.

b. In the event of inclement weather every effort must be made to complete the head being played. If this is impossible due to the closure of the green, which is the decision of

the home side, then the partially played head shall be abandoned and recognised as not having been played.

**1.15 Registered Players.**

- a. Players will be registered with a team once they appear on a result card. Players can be added during the season.
- b. A player shall not play for another side during a season.
- c. Players who enter County / National Competitions for Clubs outside the County cannot play.
- d. Players can only play for the club that they have used to enter county competitions.**

**1.16 Penalties.**

- a. Where a player plays for another side in the league then 2 points and 10 shots will be deducted from their match score.

**1.17 Transfer of Players.**

- a. Players may not be transferred once they have played one game.

**1.18 Substitutes.**

- a. Interrupted matches must resume with no more players than at the time the match was interrupted.
- b. The Bowls England rule on substitutes will apply. i.e. substitutes may play in any position.
- c. The decision on substitutes by the League Secretary is final.

**1.19 Fees.**

- a. To enter a team in the league will cost £5 per team. This fee must be with the League Secretary on registration.  
Green fees will be £1.50 per visiting bowler. The Home team fixes the charge it makes on its own players to cover hosting costs.
- b. Green fees for prizes and County funds will be collected from the Clubs at the end of the league season, by Invoice. If for any reason a game is not played, **the League Secretary / General Committee will ask the offending team to pay their fees to the home club, league and County.**

**1.20 Dress.**

- a. Greys with a white top (unless playing in official club colours).

**1.21 Rules Displayed**

**These Rules must be displayed on the Notice Boards of participating Clubs.**

Appendix

The General Committee will consist of one representative of each team in the league. Between General Committee meetings the league and its decisions will be made by the League Secretary. Two team representatives or the League Secretary may request a general meeting to be called at any time.